



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Weissman and Karikó



MEDICINE NOBEL GOES TO 2 WHOSE DISCOVERIES LED TO COVID VACCINES

Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in medicine for their discoveries that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against coronavirus

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT FOR PANDEMIC HAILED

Hungarian-born American Katalin Karikó and American Drew Weissman were cited for contributing 'to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times,' according to the panel that awarded the prize in Stockholm. The mRNA vaccines can be used to develop other shots in the future | P9

KARIKÓ IS THE 13TH WOMAN IN MEDICINE WIN

■ Injecting lab-grown mRNA into the body triggered a reaction that destroyed it. Karikó and Weissman figured out a modification to the RNA that made it stealthy enough to slip past the immune defences
■ Karikó, 68, is the 13th woman to win the prize in medicine. She was a senior VP at BioNTech, which partnered Pfizer to make COVID-19 vaccine

\$1 million

IS THE CASH AWARD FROM A BEQUEST LEFT BY ALFRED NOBEL



24 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS AT MAHA HOSPITAL

Twelve newborns among fatalities at govt hospital in Nanded due to shortage of medicines and medical staff. Expert committee formed to submit report



BAPU'S DAY

President Droupadi Murmu pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, at Rajghat in New Delhi, Monday | P11

Engineer among 3 IS suspects held in Delhi

UJJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

THE Delhi Police Special Cell arrested three suspected ISIS terrorists, including one who is on the most wanted list of the National Investigative Agency (NIA) and carrying a reward of ₹3 lakh on his head. The suspected terrorist, identified as Shah Nawaz Alam alias Abdullah alias Md Ibrahim alias Prince (31), an engineer by profession, was hiding in Delhi after fleeing from Pune, the police said on Monday. The other two were identified as Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf (28) and Md Arshad Warsi (29).

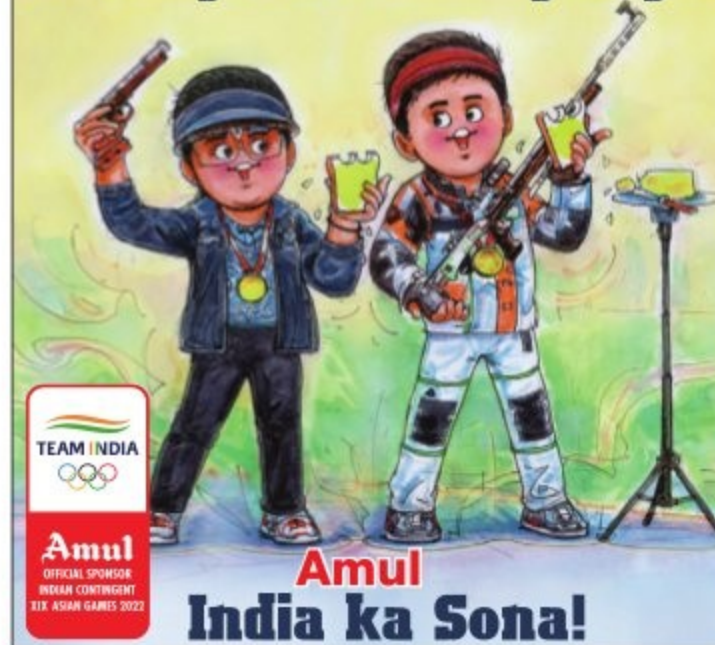
Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) HGS Dhaliwal said the arrested persons were taking instructions from their handlers in Pakistan and were planning to carry out terror activities in India. "They were in advance stage of preparations and had procured arms, ammunition, and explosives for this purpose and had also set up a base in Delhi," he added.

Dhaliwal said Delhi Police received credible inputs that Pakistan's spy agency ISI was using terrorists to carry out attacks in India. "One such module was identified with footprints in UP, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand & Maharashtra. Two ISIS operatives namely Imran Khan and Yunus Saaki were arrested in Pune by Maharashtra police. However, Shah Nawaz Alam managed to escape from the police custody," he added.

7-DAY POLICE REMAND

All three were produced before a special UAPA court in Delhi, which sent them to a seven-day police remand

Shooting stars shining bright



S'mogga peaceful, 60 held for stone-throwing

CM SEEKS REPORT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday sought a report on the incident from DG and IGP Alok Mohan. The govt will take stern action against those involved in the incident, he said. P4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

POLICE have arrested 60 people in connection with the stone-throwing incident at Ragigudda here on Sunday.

The city, which witnessed tension after Sunday's incident, was peaceful on Monday. Ban orders under Section 144 are in force across the city.

Twelve people were injured, and seven houses and four vehicles were damaged in the stone-throwing incident. The police have registered 24 FIRs. Personnel from Rapid Action Force and reserve police have been deployed across the city.

Superintendent of Police Mithun Kumar GK told *The New Indian Express* that the stone-throwing incident took place after rumours of stone-throwing on an Eid Milad procession spread across the city.

"The procession at Ragigudda began after 2.30 pm. After the alleged stone-throwing incident, I rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the crowd. But around 80 people arrived there and raised slogans. Soon, they started throwing stones. Immediately, we resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the crowd," the SP said. CONTINUED ON: P4

5 NABBED IN KOPPAL

The Koppal police have arrested five persons after a video of people showing arati to a mosque during a Ganesha procession went viral on social media. P4

Bihar BC head count at 63%

STATE CASTE SURVEY OUTCOME MADE PUBLIC; YADAV BIGGEST CASTE @ 14.3%

TOTAL POPULATION 13.07 CRORE; OBCs CONSTITUTE 27.13% OF IT, EBC 36%

Tomorrow, at 3.30 pm, a presentation on the findings of the survey will be made before representatives of all 9 parties that gave consent for the survey — Nitish Kumar, Bihar Chief Minister



RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

BIHAR'S backward castes on Monday got an authentic number for the first time — 63% — with the state's caste 'survey' report being made public. In the process, Bihar became the first state to share the findings of its game-changing caste census.

It is expected to set off caste assertion of a kind that has the potential to overshadow the Hindutva and nationalism cards the BJP is preparing to use during the next general elections in 2024. While the population of the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) is 36%, that of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) is 27.13%, the census revealed. The state has a total population of 13.07 crore.

A visibly elated Chief Minister Nitish Kumar side-stepped queries about whether the survey would prove to be Mandal 2.0, triggering demands for revised quotas for different castes in proportion to their population. "It would not be proper for me to go into such details right now. Let me share the findings with all parties tomorrow. After that, our focus will be on making policies targeted at castes that may be deemed to be in need of greater assistance. The survey will benefit all castes, without exception," he said.

Yadavs (14.27%) unsurprisingly constitute the biggest caste group amongst the OBCs. They form the primary vote-

bank of ruling RJD, which alone with the support of the Muslim population comprising 17.70%, ruled the state for 15 years in a row through the MY (Muslim-Yadav) formula from 2005 and are back in power after Nitish's somersault from the BJP and his JD(U) leading the grand anti-BJP alliance. RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is Nitish's deputy.

RJD president Lalu Yadav said the survey will set the tone for 'a nationwide caste census which will be undertaken when we form the next government at the Centre'.

The Scheduled Castes comprise 19.65% (2,56,89,820) of the state's population while the total headcount of Scheduled Tribes is 1.68% (21,99,361).

The population of upper castes under the unreserved category stands at 15.5%, which has already triggered calls for revisiting the 10% EWS (Economically Weaker Section) quota carved out by the Modi government at the Centre. The break-up of the four upper castes in the state is Bhumihar 3.66% (47,81,280), Rajput 3.45% (45,10,733), Brahmin 3.66% (47,81,280) and Kayastha 0.6% (7,85,771).

The survey was approved by state cabinet on June 2 last year with a budgetary allocation of ₹500 crore. As many as 3 lakh officials were deployed for task. For its part, the Opposition BJP in Bihar termed the report an eyewash, as it did not capture the economic profile of the people.

The big picture

TOTAL POPULATION: 13.07 CR
Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs): 36%
Other Backward Classes (OBCs): 27.13%

10 CASTES WITH HIGHEST POPULATION

CASTE	PERCENTAGE(%)	POPULATION
Yadav	14.27	1.86 CRORE
Dushad	5.31	69.43 LAKH
Chamar	5.25	68.69 LAKH
Koiris	4.2	55.06 LAKH
Brahmin	3.65	47.81 LAKH
Rajput	3.45	45.10 LAKH
Mushar	3.08	40.35 LAKH
Kurmi	2.87	37.62 LAKH
Bania	2.3	30.26 LAKH
Kayasth	0.60	7.857 LAKH

Religion-wise
Hindu 82% (10,71,92,958)
Islam 17.7% (2,31,49,925)
Christian 0.0576% (75,238)

Govt planning to set up village-level courts: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that the State Government is planning to establish courts at the village-level to reduce the burden on courts at the district and State levels. He was speaking at a function organised to present Gandhi Gram Puraskar and Swachh Sarvekshan Rural state-level awards here.

Siddaramaiah said such courts will help resolve disputes at the village-level itself. This decentralised court system will help villagers as they

need not go to towns and cities to attend court cases.

He said village-level courts will be established based on the concepts of gram swaraj of Mahatma Gandhi and decentralisation of power of Rajiv Gandhi.

Stressing the need for the development of khadi and village industries, Siddaramaiah said steps will be taken to boost the sale of gramodyog products. The country will not progress until its villages are developed. The concepts of gram swaraj and decentralisation of power were aimed at developing villages, he said. CONTINUED ON: P5

Women take the lead in organ donation drive

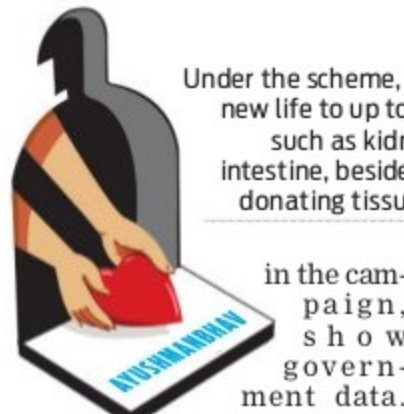
KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

WOMEN have taken the lead in donating their organs under the recently launched Ayushman Bhav campaign, under which over 61,000 Indians have pledged to donate their organs and tissues after death.

Since President Droupadi Murmu launched the campaign on September 13, as many as 35,000 women have so far taken the pledge to donate their organs and tissues.

In sharp contrast, only around 26,000 men have come forward.

Maharashtra, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh have emerged as the top three states with the highest participation



Under the scheme, a person after his/her death can give new life to up to nine others by donating vital organs such as kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, and intestine, besides improving the life of many more by donating tissues like cornea, skin, bone, heart valve

in the campaign, show government data. People from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have also responded positively to the call.

According to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, people in the age group of 30-45 years are

GIVING LIFE AFTER DEATH

death in stark contrast to 70-80% in Western countries, say experts. With over 2 lakh Indians needing organ transplants annually, a unified national policy can address the critical issue effectively, they point out.

"If we properly harvest even 5-10% of all brain deaths for organ donation, it could render the need for living donors obsolete," said Dr L K Jha, director, Dharamshila Narayana Super-speciality Hospital, Delhi.

Underscoring the need for collective efforts to increase organ donations, Dr Prashant Jain of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre said: "India must promote and streamline the process of cadaveric donations actively."

Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday urged more people to come forward for the noble cause.

India faces the lowest organ donation rate worldwide, with a mere 0.1% of the population donating their organs after



After another good day in office on Monday, the nation is inching closer to its biggest ever haul of 70 at the Asian Games. Here are some of the highlights

ATHLETES SIZZLE AGAIN

Parul Chaudhary and Priti secured silver and bronze medals in the women's 3000m steeplechase while Ancy Sojan grabbed a long jump silver. The 4x400m mixed relay team's bronze was upgraded to silver after Sri Lanka was disqualified for lane infringement

PADDLERS SUTIRTHA-AYHIKA WIN BRONZE

Sutirtha Mukherjee and Auhika Mukherjee's giant-slaying run ended as they lost the closely-fought women's doubles semifinal 3-4 to North Korea on Monday. They finished with bronze | MORE ON P11

Speed skaters dazzled with two surprise bronze medals in men's and women's 3000m team relay events

GOKAK HORROR

Five held for gangrape, sixth on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

AN incident of a woman gangraped by six members of the notorious "Benachinmardi Khilari" gang and "SP Sarkar" gang at Aditya Nagar in Gokak town of Belagavi district came to light on September 18 though it occurred on September 5.

The district police have arrested five of the six accused. The arrested have been identified as Ramesh Uddappa Khilari, Durgappa Somling Vaddar, Yallappa Siddappa Gisingavagol, Krishna Prakash Puji and Ramsidda Gurussiddappa Tapsi, all residents of Gokak taluk.

A search is on for Basavaraj Vasant Khilari who is absconding.

Police said the victim was shopping in Gokak town along with a man on September 5 when Basavaraj Khilari, who is known to her, invited them to his house for tea. Accordingly, the victim and the man went to his house. After some time, Basavaraj Khilari locked them in a room and telephoned the other accused to come to his house. After the five accused reached Basavaraj Khilari's house, they assaulted the victim and the man, clicked their photos and shot their videos to blackmail them.

They took Rs 2,000 from the victim's bag, her earrings and an ATM card from the man and demanded Rs2 lakh from them. Later, the accused gangraped the victim after gagging her.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Noah mocks Bengaluru infra; Shaw asks govt to wake up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SHARING a viral video of South African comedian Trevor Noah, who regaled his audience sharing his experiences in Bengaluru right from poor roads, traffic and deplorable venue, Biocon founder and entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw called upon the

state administration to wake up and set things right.

In her post on X, she tagged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, joint commissioner of traffic and BBMP chief commissioner. She said, "Bangalore's shambolic state has provided enough content for Trevor Noah's future shows. If

this does not wake up the administration then we have nothing left to hope for."

As part of his 'Off the Record' tour, Noah was to perform at Manpho Convention Centre in Bengaluru on September 27 and 28. As the audience could not hear him, Noah

cancelled the first show just half an hour into the show, tendered an apology to the audience and promised the full refund of tickets.

Now, Noah's fans can know the real reason behind cancellation of the -- the city's traffic, glitches at the event venue and

angry fans. In a video which is doing its rounds in social media, the comedian regaled the audience at his Mumbai show held on Saturday.

Noah said it took nearly one-and-a-half hours for him to reach the venue and he could not do the sound check. "After 1.5 hours of driving, I was like where are we going? At some

point we just turned off the road and we were on a mud and dirt road. Where am I going," he reportedly said in the show.

Once at the venue, he said he walked through an alley that was full of dogs with some in cages. He said the venue looked like a semi-permanent tent and the room was not designed for humans.



The incomplete drain between Hosur Road and HSR Layout | EXPRESS

It's tight rope walk for pedestrians on HSR - BTM stretch

600m stretch left half-done by BMRL

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

TRAVERSING the 600-metre stretch from HSR Layout towards BTM Layout is a nightmare for pedestrians, thanks to a job half-done by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL). Bengaluru Metro had to put in place a road that offered a free left turn from Hosur Road to BTM Layout in connection with its Central Silk Board-KR Pura (Phase 2A) line, said official sources.

It had given an undertaking to the high powered committee headed by the chief secretary that it would complete the drains and lay the footpath. Yet, there are no footpaths visible here.

"Pedestrians are struggling as there is no footpath on this stretch. Of the two drains to be built, BMRL completed a perpendicular drain from Hosur Road towards HSR Layout. The height of the existing drain at Silk Board junction already in place, needs to be levelled and widened. This drain should be connected with the drain completed by BMRL. No work has been done on that," a source said.

BMRL has stopped the

project midway. "It was to be ready by October 2023. They are thinking of doing it after the monsoon. However, if we have heavy rain, there will be flooding here," he explained.

Another source conceded that pedestrians were struggling to cross towards BTM Layout due to the incomplete work. "BMRL will not complete the job as BMRL has already done half the work. Moreover, they have given a written assurance in the past that they would complete it," a BBMP source said.

None of the BBMP engineers involved in the project could be reached for their version.

Rajaguru of JN Project Pvt Ltd, consultant for BBMP, told TNIE, "If the drain at the junction is lowered and a route created for footpaths as well as the road, it will make it easy for pedestrians as well as motorists."

BMRL had already constructed a perpendicular drain, he pointed out. "If they construct the parallel drain, it will solve the issue of flooding in the area," Rajaguru added. No Metro official responded to repeated calls and messages in this connection.

City remembers Gandhi, Shastri, pays tribute

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU on Monday remembered the country's great freedom fighters, Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Congress leaders paid floral tributes to the portraits of Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee office.

Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development, Rakesh Singh, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath and other BBMP officials offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue on MG Road in Bengaluru. Leaders from different communities read verses from their religious scriptures as a mark of respect to Gandhi.

South Western Railway Additional Division Railway Managers Kusuma Hariprasad, Navid Talib and Ashutosh Mathur, safai karmacharis and officials from the ministry of information and broadcasting offered tributes to Gandhi at KSR Bengaluru Station. The department had organized a Kamsale folk dance in the station premises on the theme of cleanliness.

Children who won prizes in the drawing competition on the theme, as part of the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' event, were award-



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, on their birth anniversary organised by the DIPR | EXPRESS

He (Gandhiji) led the freedom struggle and followed the path of truth and non-violence. We should make a concerted effort to walk the way they (Mahatma Gandhi & Lal Bahadur Shastri) did.

- Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

ed certificates.

Similarly, students from CMR University and CMR Institute of Technology joined hands with BBMP and prominent non-governmental organizations to clean up areas like



ISKCON temple inaugurated

Sri Sri Radha Krishna Temple, of Iskcon, on 3rd Main Road, Samvruddi Enclave, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, was inaugurated on Sunday, by Governor of Karnataka, Thawarchand Gehlot in the presence of Jayapataka Maharaja, Bhanu Maharaja and many other senior Vaishnavas. Member of Parliament, Bengaluru South, and National President of BJP Yuva Morcha, Tejasvi Surya was also present at the occasion.

Govt inaugurates model school in Devanahalli

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ON the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary, Minister for Primary Education and Literacy, Madhu Bangarappa along with Minister for Food and Civil Supplies KH Muniyappa, inaugurated a model school at Devanahalli Taluk in Rural Bengaluru. The school is built with the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds given to the department.

Muniyappa, who is also Devanahalli taluk MLA, said, "To prevent migration of people from rural areas to urban areas, it is important to empower the educational institutes at panchayat level, and improve the

overall quality of education." He added, "For this to happen schools in every village should be identified as model schools and funded by private companies through CSR initiatives."

The public-private partnership in such schools will help improve basic infrastructure like having computer and science laboratories, libraries and Anganwadi. The program will also provide vocational training to teachers with an emphasis on technology.

Similar model schools will be built across other villages under the district in-charge ministers, district commissioners, and 15 private companies will be on boarded to make CSR contributions.

EXPRESS READ

Jayaram appointed BDA commissioner

N Jayaram, the Chairman of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been transferred and posted as the new Commissioner of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) from Monday. The previous BDA Commissioner Kumar G Naik retired on September 30.



Bannerghatta Biological Park gets a new logo

Bengaluru: A few months after the Karnataka forest department launched a new logo showcasing the state bird, animal and tree; Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) on Monday, launched the zoo management's new logo.

According to the zoo management, it is a part of the exercise of revamping the zoo. The logo was launched as a part of the 69th Wildlife Week celebrations held at the zoo premises. BBP Executive Director, Surya Sen said. Explaining the logo, Sen said, "Its simple, with a leopard, a hornbill, a butterfly and an elephant. The logo was made in-house. We also looked through the logos of other zoos across the globe. Minimalism is trending, so the new logo is simple, and they are all hand made with different kinds of paint." The zoo management will be starting an online and offline merchandise with the logo, including T-shirts, coffee mugs, stickers.



1,200 athletes in National Carrom & Badminton C'ship

Bengaluru: Around 1,200 finest badminton athletes and carrom enthusiasts from across the country participated in the National Carrom and Badminton Championships which ended here on Monday. The event was held at Vishwa Vidyaapeeth Bengaluru, Yelahanka campus from September 30 to October 2. The competition saw many dignitaries participating in it. Trisha Hegde, the International Badminton Player was also present at the event. RM Shankara, the world champion for carrom, and winner of 160 gold medals, was the referee for carrom. The retired Karnataka chief referee for Badminton, Suresh was also present.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

03rd October: I've always felt that the universe is teeming with life. Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, who worked at Cardiff University in Wales, has long been a strong proponent of this point of view. Now we have discovered that the dust that we find throughout the solar system may be organic. Which means that life on other planets could be far more likely than we thought.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're now in a phase in which you need to take a more thoughtful approach. I don't mean that you've got to come over all dry, dusty and professional, but there's no doubt that you will benefit from thinking through all the options in a finely balanced situation.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Don't panic or take flight if nothing seems to work out as planned. You're entering a period of about four weeks during which you will be inclined to pick up the wrong end of the stick. All will be well if you adopt a laid-back approach.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You seem to be in a quandary of sorts, trapped between a rock and a hard place, as they say. However, have you considered the possibility that current dilemmas result from your own impatience? If so, then there's no need to worry. There may be lessons here for the future!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You appear to have had your nose put out of joint. But when and by whom? These questions are not easy to answer, and you may be inclined to blame the wrong people. You would serve your own cause better if you bided your time. If others complain that you're taking too long, then you might have to point out to them that they're going too fast!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Passions are still running high, most likely as a consequence of arguments which are now in the past. However, as you know, there are situations in which it is very difficult to forgive and forget, and this may be one of them. Follow any noble path and you will be the winner.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

By rights your professional achievements should now have been rewarded with increased cash. If this is not the case, all I can suggest is that you haven't made the right connections or asked the pertinent questions. Don't give up hope, for a new set of planetary influences is being brought to bear.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Sharply contradictory planetary patterns could get you off to an erratic start. Within a broadly enjoyable framework, it seems clear that the longer you spend pursuing activities which bring you pleasure, the better you'll be able to deal with problems when the time comes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You are in a position to off-load responsibilities, but it may be that attempts to out-down domestically will be balanced by expanding commitments in the big, wide world. A feeling that you are increasingly burdened at home may not reflect the reality of the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

You may still be wondering what to do about a financial matter, but at least you can now talk to other people about all the pros and cons. If a short trip is necessary, don't delay. You probably need to check up on instructions and directions though, just in case anything has changed while your back was turned!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

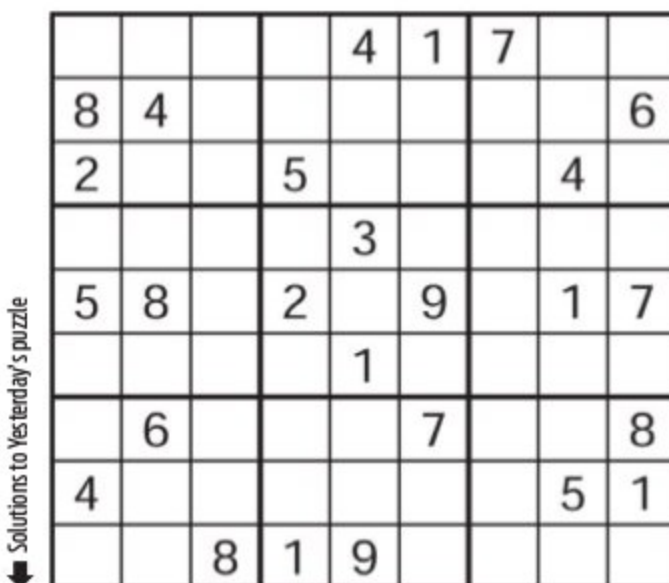
Listen to reason and you'll find that family relationships improve dramatically. If you can possibly initiate discussions with children, parents and partners you'll do even better than before. Of course, that doesn't mean that they'll listen, but you can do your best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

A fantastic relationship between Neptune and Saturn should now focus your mind and concentrate your attention on long-term goals and ambitions. Take immediate action to fulfill your deepest dreams. Don't worry about a spot of confusion - it might help you clarify your options.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

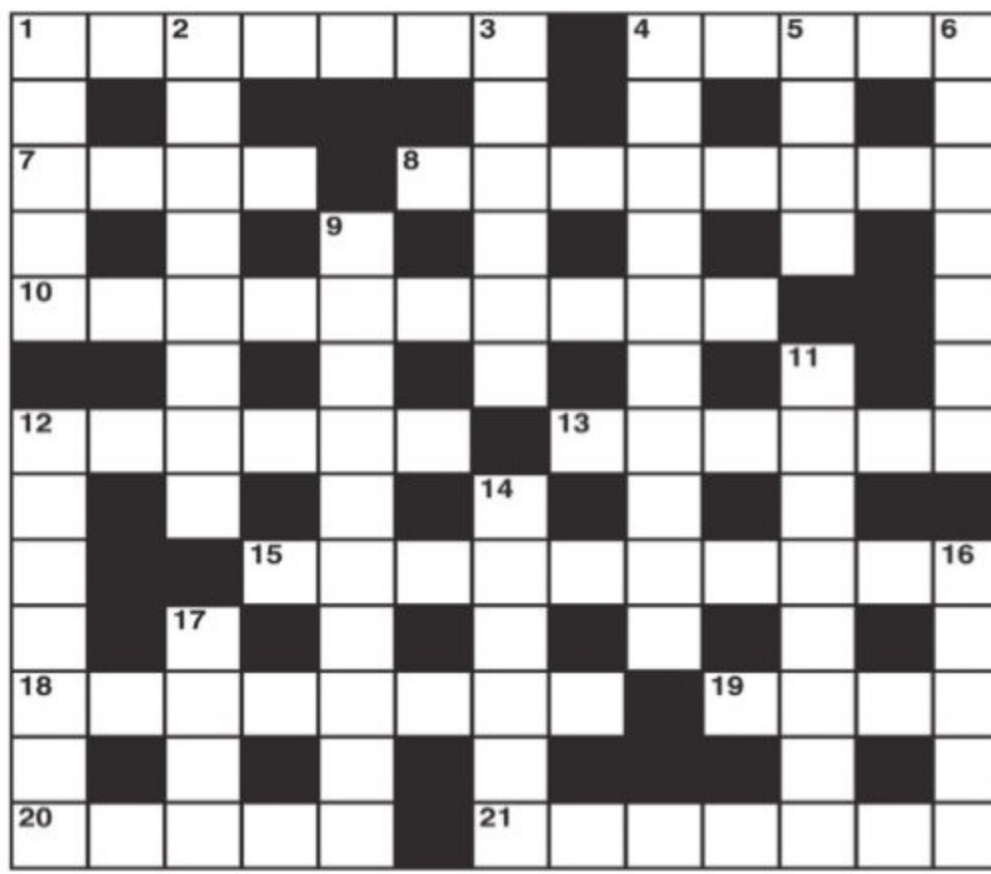
Try to be more businesslike over the next few weeks. I may not be to your taste, but you must go through all financial obligations with a fine-tooth-comb, checking that there are no ambiguities. You might also consider whether you need a little extra time to yourself.



SUDOKU EVIL

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- Enormous attic in disarray (7)
- Father needs a hand to gather fruit (5)
- Recording band (4)
- Insect with a lot to learn? (8)
- Play things? (10)
- Make profit from a shipping company we hear (6)
- Tasted differently it's said (6)
- He has a burning desire (10)
- It's fat and very wet (8)
- Clean the decks for surgical inspection perhaps (4)
- Build straight up (5)
- Continue to behave strangely (5,2)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 First lesson, 9 To posit, 10 Laura, 11 Told, 12 Anathema, 14 Ostrich, 16 Poetic, 18 Cactus, 19 Abet, 22 Plaid, 23 Tribute, 24 Scared stiff.

DOWN

- Infant raised to do simple arithmetic (3,2)
- Highest score? Fine (8)
- He helps the priest arrange a truce (6)
- Now it's gift time (7,3)
- Highly praise some pastry (4)
- Held up though the road is finished (7)
- Boy upset at damage to tourist attraction (6,4)
- Flight path? (8)
- Shorten a game of cards (7)
- This drink can go a hundred years back (6)
- The shed has a taxi in (5)
- Five past four (4)

Down: 2 Impel, 3 Shot, 4 Latent, 5 Solution, 6 Opulent, 7 Spectroscope, 8 Naval cutter, 10 Consider, 15 Acheat, 17 Praised, 20 Burt, 21 Tilt.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

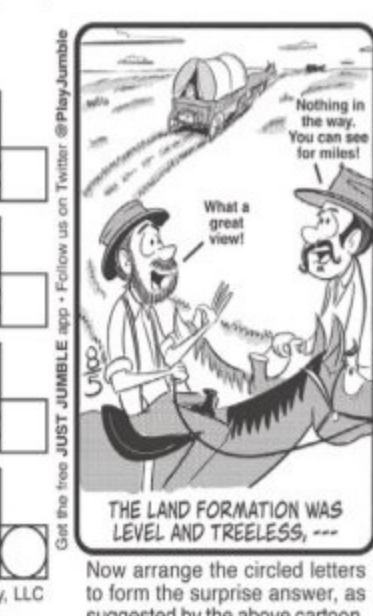
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



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Yesterday's

Jumbles: RURAL HOIST ENCORE MINION Answer: If Jack Russells could join the armed services, they'd be -- "MILI-TERRIERS"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

AND

(Answers Monday)

CAB OPERATORS OPPOSE MP SURYA'S SUPPORT TO CAR POOLING APPS

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy calls meeting of operators today to decide on their fate

AKNISREE KARTHIK
@ Bengaluru

OPPOSING the ban on car-pooling apps, in his letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on October 1, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya pointed out that the ban is detrimental to the interests of the city and it will only make the traffic congestion worse. This letter has triggered a hornet's nest as private cab operators are vehemently opposing Surya's stand.

Opposing Surya's stand on the issue, the cab operators said that instead of taking other measures to curb traffic jams in Bengaluru, the MP is insisting on legalising car-pooling and added that it has eaten into their rightful revenue.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Nataraj Sharma, President of Karnataka State Private Transport Association said, "Private white-board vehicles which are purchased for their own-use are not allowed to car pool. Asking the state government to make an illegal service

legal, just indicates how unaware about the law our legislator and a practising lawyer is."

"A yellow-board cab driver pays around Rs 5,000 road tax every quarter. Along with this he pays for permit, gets fitness certificate and his driver badge is renewed as per the law. However, the white-board vehicle users get the vehicle for personal use, link it with some car-pooling app, and both earn money, which is illegal. They pretend that they are doing this only to reduce traffic congestion in the city," he explained.

As a legislator, Surya is in favour of private companies. But does he know that the rightful revenue of the private cab drivers are taken away under the guise of car pooling? Is he aware of the problems faced by nearly two lakh cab operators in the city? His support to the private car pooling companies only leads to suspicion that they are funding his elections, said Sharma.

Tanveer Pasha, President of Ola



and Uber Drivers Association opposed Surya's stand and pointed that it is illegal and transport department itself had started to crackdown on them by slapping fines upto Rs 10,000 and suspending the registration certificate of the vehicle for six months.

Radhakrishna Holla, President of Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association said, "There is no report to substantiate that car pooling will help reduce traffic

significantly. Government must improve public transport and work on the road infrastructure to curb traffic. When the population of Bengaluru was 80 lakh, Bengaluru's lifeline BMTC's fleet was at around 5,000 buses and now even after the population is nearing 1.4 crore it's the same."

Traffic experts echoed a similar sentiment, saying traffic congestion can be eased by investing heavily in public transport including BMTC, Metro and suburban rail.

Transport department officials said that individuals using their white board vehicles for car-pooling, and using it for monetary benefits is illegal. It attracts action that includes fines upto Rs 10,000 and suspension of registration certificate. To decide on the fate of the car-pooling in Bengaluru, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has called for a meeting of car-pooling app operators on Tuesday.

TNIE tried to get in touch with Tejasvi Surya for his comment, however, he was not available.



OUR RIGHTS

Members of various organisations being detained by the police during a protest at Maurya Circle on Monday, demanding that protests be allowed in other parts of the city and not restricted just to Freedom Park | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

REVA promotes Green Life Initiatives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

In a bid to encourage green life, sustainable agriculture, and foster a culture of self-reliance in food security, REVA University launched an educational initiative - REVA Krushi Tech Project. The initiative is a vision of Chancellor Dr P Shyama Raju. The event also saw the launch of the grow bag plantation in the campus, where the Chancellor joined hundreds of students in planting the plants in grow bags.

The Chancellor launched the vertical modular agriculture and grow bag planting on the campus and said, "As part of REVA Krushi project the theme of Vidya, Vaidya and Vyavasya will be propagated. The vertical modular agriculture is a wall-mounted structure in a soil-less medium and we plan to use recycled resources." "Around 300 grow bags were planted with seedlings of potatoes, tomato, capsicum, chillies, and brinjal. These plants will be individually allotted to the students for their peer learning, and nurturing," he added.



P Shyamaraju, Chancellor, REVA University, plants a sapling

City home to 2.75L stray dogs, highest in East Zone

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

AS per the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) street dog census report, the population of strays in Bengaluru has declined by 29,645, since the 2019 census.

According to BBMP, there are 2,79,355 street dogs in all eight zones of BBMP limits - East, West, South, Mahadevpura, Dasarahalli, Bommanahalli, RR Nagar and Yelahanka. Animal husbandry department sources say the core area of East Zone has around 48,000 stray dogs, which is the highest, followed by West Zone with around 45,000 dogs, and South Zone with approximately 30,000 stray dogs.

"Mahadevpura has around 35,000 stray dogs, Bommanahalli 30,000, RR Nagar 27,000, while Dasarahalli and Yelahanka have 20,000

stray dogs each. The outer areas remain a concern as there is no place for Animal Birth Control (ABC) in Mahadevpura and Bommanahalli zones. There is a big challenge in the suburban areas of the city as they are new and big, and if measures like ABC are not taken up, the stray dog population might go up in a few years," the official said.

Staffers from BBMP and animal husbandry department used drones around lakes to photograph stray dogs. The census was carried out by 50 teams comprising two members each. Each team covered an area of 5km radius, clicked and uploaded photos of stray dogs with details of the street and spot in the in-house portal. To make sure there was no repetition, the team checked the spot after six days of the inspection.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH Water Resources Department

Tender Notice
1) Tender Notice No.NHP/AFSW/RDC/01/2023-24. Work description: Construction of Regional Data Centre at Vijayawada under National Hydrology Project (NHP).
2) PID & Package No.: 12890 & NHP-2021-22-AFSW-76938_1. 3) Start/Last date/Time of Tender document schedules available From 03.10.2023 at 10.00 AM to 02.11.2023 upto 3:00 PM. 4) Start/Last Date/Time for Submission of Tenders: From 16.10.2023 at 11.00 AM to 02.11.2023 upto 3:30 PM. 5) Pre-Bid meeting: 11.10.2023 at 11.00AM O/o. Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Vijayawada. 6) Bid Opening Date, Time and Place and Address of the Superintending Engineer concerned: 02.11.2023 from 4:00 PM onwards, Superintending Engineer, O/o Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Water Resources Department, H.No.76-16-16, 2nd Floor, Lane beside Reliance Smart, Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada-AP-520012. Interested authorized/ reputed Bidders may obtain the tender schedule from <https://tenders.approcurement.gov.in> for further details visit <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>, <http://nhp.mowr.gov.in/TenderDetails.aspx> and <http://irrigationap.cgg.gov.in/wrd/getTenderDigest>.
Contact: 8919434901, Email: andhrasw@ap.gov.in.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Vijayawada
DIPR No.2383PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt:29/09/2023

Canara Bank
Viveknagar Branch, No. 1st main road vannarpet, Viveknagar, Bengaluru - 560 047 Mobile, +94835 20790 Email: cb0790@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Regional Office East of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 18.10.2023, for recovery of Rs.96,54,928.95 (Rupees Ninety six Lakhs fifty four Thousands nine Hundred twenty eight and Paise Ninety Five only) as on 27/09/2023 with further interest and charges thereon due to the Viveknagar Branch (0790) of Canara Bank from Borrower/s 1. Mr. Abrarul Haque S/o Naseemul ghani and Co-borrower (s) 1. Mr. Rizwan Khan C/o Rafeeqe Khan.
The reserve price will be Rs. 82,74,000.00/-Rupees Eighty Two Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 8,27,400/-Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Only). The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 17/10/2023 by 4.00 PM.
Details and full description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any.
Name of the Owner/Mortgagor: Mr. Abrarul Haque

Immovable	Title Holder
Residential 2 BHK flat bearing No.FF-10, @ present CMC Khatha No.10665/5382/8300/8301/136/1, 3.4/c/4/F-F-5, 4 th Floor, "C" Block, S2 HOMES- THE WATER GROOVE" Constructed on Converted land bearing Sy.No.136/3, 136/4 & 136/1 old VP no 8300/136/3, 8301/136/4, CMC Khatha no. 5382/136/1, Project known as "S2 HOMES-THE WATER GROOVE" situated at Kammasandra village, Attebale Hobli Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Dist measuring 2021 sq.ft of super builtup area of apartment, 1353 sq.ft of builtup area along with 493 sq.ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in the entire land measuring 1 acre 22 guntas with one car parking space and the flat is bounded on the East by: Corridor, West by: open space North by: Flat No.FF 11, South by: Flat No.FF09	Mr. Abrarul Haque

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, Viveknagar Branch, No.1st main road Vannarpet Viveknagar, Bengaluru - 560 047 Mob.- 94835 20790, email id: cb0790@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day.
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 27.09.2023
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

A 28-year-old history sheeter was arrested on Monday for allegedly stabbing his neighbour for not lending him money in Byatarayanapura police station limits on Sunday. According to the police, accused Imraan, who is unemployed, requested Syed (26), an auto driver, to lend him some money, but the latter refused. Irked over this, Imraan stabbed Syed in the chest. The victim is undergoing treatment at a hospital

RESCUE DRAMA

Woman running lodge kidnapped for refusing room

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru:

A 42-year-old leaseholder of a hotel was allegedly kidnapped by a group of five, including three women after they were denied a hotel room, in Jalahalli police station limits in Bengaluru. The leaseholder, Pankaja, was running DM Residency Lodge on MES Ring Road for the past four years. Pankaja resides in the same lodge with her husband, Vijay, a retired officer who was not present when the incident took place.

On Sunday afternoon, a group of five people, including three women, came to the hotel to book a room. Pankaja declined, saying they don't give rooms to local residents. It led to an argument, and when things heated up, the women, identified as Fyrima, Asma and Nazma, attacked her.

According to the victim's complaint, the three women forced Pankaja into an auto and instructed the auto driver to take them to a distant location. En route, Jalahalli traffic police constables on duty observed something strange and stopped the auto. Pankaja narrated the incident to the police, who rescued her.

Throughout the investigation, the accused claimed they did not kidnap her, but were taking her to the police station because she had refused to give them a hotel room. The other accused were identified as Sadiq Pasha and Jayaram.

A case of kidnap and assault was registered with Jalahalli police station, and the five accused were arrested.

Three of family in debt die by suicide

Tumakuru: A debt-ridden family of three allegedly died by suicide by throwing themselves in front of a running train at Pandithanahalli Gate near here on Monday morning. The deceased — Siddagangaiah (62), Sunandamma (55) and their daughter Geetha (35) — were from Maruluru near here, but had settled down in Bengaluru. Siddagangaiah retired as a KPTCL employee and was running a tea shop at KC General Hospital in Malleswaram. He had taken loans from private finance companies, but could not repay. His daughter, whose husband also works at KPTCL, had given surety against the loans. ENS

Customs seizes gold, electronics at KIA

Bengaluru: Customs officials on Monday arrested two flyers from Colombo at the Kempegowda International Airport for allegedly attempting to smuggle gold. While one passenger had concealed 74.54 grams of gold powder inside his pants, another was found with 155.30 gram of gold paste in his rectum. In another incident, Customs officials on Monday seized electronic devices as well as cigarettes from eight passengers, including a woman. The flyers had arrived from Sharjah on Air Arabia G9 496. The woman passenger was carrying three bags with 49,600 cigarettes. ENS

INDOSTAR CAPITAL FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Office: - Unit No. 505, 5th Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue Andheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakola, Mumbai, Mumbai City, MH-400023, India. Email: - contact@indostarcapital.com. CIN Number: - L65100MH2009PLC268160
Contact No.: B P Raghunandan, Mob. - 9341228767.
APPENDIX-IV-A See Rule 8(6) [Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Properties]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of INDOSTAR CAPITAL FINANCE LIMITED (hereinafter referred to as "Secured Creditor") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower(s), offers are invited to be submitted online on the Web Portal of our Sales & Marketing and e-Auction Service Partner, M/s. Invent ON Solutions Pvt. Limited (Invent ON) i.e. <https://auctions.inventon.in> by the undersigned for purchase of the immovable property, as described hereunder. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The said property is in the Physical Possession on "As is Where is Basis", "As is What is Basis" and "Whatever is There is Basis" and "No Recourse Basis", the particulars of which are hereunder:

Borrower(s) Details	Date & Amount/13(2) Demand Notice	Reserve Price, EMD Bid & Increase Amount	Date & Time of eAuction
LSBGL00416-170000735, LSBGL06118-190002386, LSBGL13920-210004515 & LSBGL13921-220005364 Branch: Bangalore Borrower 1. Mr. Munishamappa Co-Borrower: 2. Mrs. Sowmya 3. M/s. M C C Chicken Stalludha	Date: - 16/12/2022 Rs. 1,07,02,641/- (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakhs Two Thousand Six Hundred & Forty One Only) along with further interest and charges until payment	Rs. 70,82,429/- Rs. 7,08,243/- Rs. 10,000/-	17-10-2023 Time: 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM with unlimited extension of 5 minutes Last Date of EMD: 16-10-2023
Description of Property - Property Bearing: - All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.5, BBMP Khatha No.2615, Assessment No.2262/48/-, situated at Kittigenahalli Village, Jalah Hobli, Bangalore & All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.6, BBMP Khatha No.832, Assessment No.2247/48/06, situated at Kittigenahalli Village, Jalah Hobli, Bangalore.			
LSBGL05120-210004911 Branch: Bangalore Borrower 1. M/s. Sri Srikantheshwara Swamy Solutions Pvt Ltd Co-Borrower: 2. Mrs. B R Saja 3. Mr. B R Sriramkishan 4. Mrs. B R Sudha	Date: - 27/09/2022 Rs. 1,61,54,135/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty One Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty Five Only) along with further interest and charges until payment	Rs. 1,50,24,143/- Rs. 15,02,414/- Rs. 10,000/-	17-10-2023 Time: 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM with unlimited extension of 5 minutes Last Date of EMD: 16-10-2023
Description of Property - Property Bearing: - All that piece and parcel of property bearing Shop-Cum-Godown bearing No.507 (Constructed in BDA land) having P.L.D No.10-79-507, Situated at 9th Main, Constructed in BDA Land/area, A.P.M.C. Yard Yeshwanthapura Mahalakshmiyura Ward No.10, Bangalore -560022 North - Road South - Factory Compound East - Site No.506 West - Site No.508			

LSBGL02918-20002839 Branch: Bangalore Borrower: 1. Mr/Mrs S BHAVANA Co-Borrower: 2. Mr/Mrs SANTOSH KUMAR G 3. Mr/Mrs LALITHA RAJ
Date: - 21/12/2021 Rs. 2,07,50,113/- (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand One Hundred Thirteen Only)
Property 1. Rs. 53,50,990/-
Rs. 5,35,099/-
Property 2. Rs. 75,13,147/-
Rs. 7,51,315/-
Property 3. Rs. 68,24,242/-
Rs. 6,82,424/-
17-10-2023 Time: 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM with unlimited extension of 5 minutes Last Date of EMD: 16-10-2023

Description of Property - Property 1. All that piece and parcel of Flat N.B-204, on B Block, on Second Floor, having 1415 Sq ft SBA along with 472.61 Sq ft along with one covered car parking in Still/ Basement Floor in building known as "VAISHNAVI MANDARA" in Municipal No.46 PID No.11-59-46, Industrial Suburb, 3rd cross, 2nd Stage Yeshwanthapura, Land use from Industrial to non agricultural residential purpose vide order bearing No.ULC/279/2012-13/941/2013-14, B.M.P Ward No.11 Bangalore-560022. Boundaries: - East by: Property No.47 West by: Property No.45, North by: 3rd Cross Road, South by: Property No.51.
Property 2. All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing Flat No.101 on B Block, on First Floor, having 1940sqft, along with 647.96sqft, of undivided share in building known as "VAISHNAVI MANDARA" in Municipal No.46 PID No.11-59-46, Industrial Suburb, 3rd cross, 2nd Stage Yeshwanthapura, Land use from Industrial to non agricultural residential purpose vide order bearing No.ULC/279/2012-13/941/2013-14, B.M.P Ward No.11 Bangalore-560022 Boundaries :- East by: Property No.47 West by: Property No.45, North by: 3rd Cross Road, South by: Property No.51.
Property 3. All that piece and parcel of Flat No.B-201, on B Block, on Second Floor, having 1940sqft 1 SBA along with 647.96Sq ft along with one covered car parking in Still/ Basement Floor in building known as "VAISHNAVI MANDARA" in Municipal No.46 PID No.11-59-46, Industrial Suburb, 3rd cross, 2nd Stage Yeshwanthapura, Land use from Industrial to non agricultural residential purpose vide order bearing No.ULC/279/2012-13/941/2013-14, B.M.P Ward No.11 Bangalore-560022. Boundaries :- East by: Property No.47 West by: Property No.45, North by: 3rd Cross Road, South by: Property No.51. Boundaries :- East by: Property No.47 West by: Property No.45, North by: 3rd Cross Road, South by: Property No.51.

LSBGL02918-200003348, LSBGL13920-210004545 & LSBGL13921-220005044 Branch: Bangalore Borrower 1. Mr. Chetan Kumar A Co-Borrower: 2) Mrs. Veena S
Date: - 06/01/2023 Rs. 3,26,62,449/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Six Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred & Forty Nine Only)
Property 1. Rs. 70,13,138/-
Rs. 7,01,314/-
Property 2. Rs. 71,59,556/-
Rs. 7,15,956/-
Property 3. Rs. 95,00,653/-
Rs. 9,50,065/-
17-10-2023 Time: 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM with unlimited extension of 5 minutes Last Date of EMD: 16-10-2023

Description of Property - Property 1. All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Flat No.110, situated at Ground floor A Block, Municipal New No. 26/11, PID No. 64-156-26/11, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore - 560029. Boundaries: - East: Corridor West: Open Sky North: Flat No.109 South: Flat No.111
Property 2. All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Flat No.211, situated at First floor A Block, Municipal New No. 26/28, PID No. 64-156-26/28, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore - 560029. Boundaries: - East: Corridor West: Open Sky North: Flat No.210 South: Flat No.212
Property 3. All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Flat No.405, situated at 3rd floor D Block, Municipal New No. 26/1/3, PID No. 64-156-26/173, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore - 560029. Boundaries: - East: Flat No.404 West: Flat No.406 North: Open to Sky South: Corridor

LSBGL00116-170000619, LSBGL03817-180001225, LSBGL07317-180001228, LSBGL03817-180002215, LSBGL06117-180002217, LSBGL13920-210004612, LSBGL13920-210004613, LSBGL13920-210004614 & LSBGL13920-210004615, Branch: Bangalore Borrower 1. M/s. Callistus Offshore Services Private Limited Co-Borrower: 2. Mr. Shaheer Ahmed 3. Mr. Ritwik Gururaj
Date: - 12/09/2022 Rs. 3,75,95,872/- (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred & Seventy Two Only)
Property 1. Rs. 50,32,834/-
Rs. 5,03,283/-
Property 2. Rs. 50,32,834/-
Rs. 5,03,283/-
Property 3. Rs. 40,24,992/-
Rs. 4,02,499/-
Property 4. Rs. 41,33,430/-
Rs. 4,13,343/-
Property 5. Rs. 44,57,232/-
Rs. 4,45,723/-
17-10-2023 Time: 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM with unlimited extension of 5 minutes Last Date of EMD: 16-10-2023

Description of Property - Property 1. ALL THAT BUILD UP PROPERTY BEARING Flat No. G-12, Ground Floor, "SRI KRISHNA SAI ENCLAVE", Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore Boundaries: - East: H.N.Gopala Gowda Property West: Remaining Kharab land belongs to Owners thereafter Burial Ground and Ashrama North: Road South: Road
Property 2. ALL THAT BUILD UP PROPERTY BEARING Flat No.214, Second Floor Sri Krishna Sai Enclave Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore. Boundaries: - East: H.N.Gopala Gowda Property West: Remaining Kharab land belongs to Owners thereafter Burial Ground and Ashrama North: Road South: Road
Property 3. ALL THAT BUILD UP PROPERTY BEARING Flat No.F-115, 1st floor, "SRI KRISHNA SAI ENCLAVE" Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore. Boundaries: - East: H.N.Gopala Gowda Property West: Remaining Kharab land belongs to Owners thereafter Burial Ground and Ashrama North: Road South: Road
Property 4. ALL THAT BUILD UP PROPERTY BEARING Flat No.F-104, First Floor, "SRI KRISHNA SAI ENCLAVE" Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore. Boundaries: - East: H.N.Gopala Gowda Property West: Remaining Kharab land belongs to Owners thereafter Burial Ground and Ashrama North: Road South: Road
Property 5. ALL THAT BUILD UP PROPERTY BEARING Flat No.GF-020, in the Ground Floor "SLV SPRING FIELDS" Nagavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore. Boundaries: - East: H.N.Gopala Gowda Property West: Remaining Kharab land belongs to Owners thereafter Burial Ground and Ashrama North: Road South: Road

Terms and Conditions of E- Auction: 1)For Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Sale Please Refer To The Link Provided On <https://www.indostarcapital.com/AndwebisteofourSales&Marketingande-AuctionServiceProvider,https://auctions.inventon.in> Secured Creditors Website. 2) The Same Have Been Published On Our Portal Under the Link <https://www.indostarcapital.com/Auction-Terms-and-Conditions> 3)For any enquiry, information & inspection of the property, support, procedure and online training on e-Auction, the prospective bidders may contact the Client Service Provider (CSD) Department of our Sales & Marketing & e-Auction Service Partner M/s. InventON Solutions Pvt. Limited, through Tel. No.: +91 9833478748/9029086321 & E-mail id: care@inventon.net or manoj.das@inventon.net or the Authorized Officer, B P Raghunandan, Mob. - 9341228767. Place: Bengaluru. Date: 03.10.2023. Sd/- Authorised Officer- M/s. IndoStar Capital Finance Limited

GOVT FAILED TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER, SAYS BJP

Gamblers, anti-social elements and rioters are roaming free in the state, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

SHIVAMOGGA INCIDENT

OPPOSITION BJP leaders slammed the state government over a communal incident in which stones were thrown at an Eid Milad procession in Shivamogga on Sunday night. They said the Congress government has failed to maintain law and order.

Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said Shivamogga is a communally sensitive city, but the police failed to take precautions during the procession. "Stone throwers and troublemakers don't have any fear of the law under the present government. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara described the incident as small, but houses were stoned. His statement is churlish. A similar incident has occurred in Kolar too. The government is indirectly supporting such elements. Because of this attitude, gamblers, anti-social elements and rioters are roaming free in the state," he said in Mandya.

Senior BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal alleged that stones were thrown at Hindus and the police during the procession. "When Congress openly says they stand with minorities, we say we stand only for Hindus," he said.

Senior BJP leader CT Ravi

alleged that stone throwing in Shivamogga was preplanned. Ragigudda area in Shivamogga where the incident occurred is communally sensitive. "When the police knew it, why did they allow a cutout of Tipu Sultan to be put up in the area? It is unfortunate that they are using communal forces for their political ends," he said.

Former deputy chief minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said Congress is encouraging people who are destroying culture and dharma. "They threw stones at the SP, but Siddaramaiah's government has kept mum. The government should impose the Goonda Act against those involved in such incidents," he said.

Former minister R Ashoka held that such incidents tarnish the image of the state.

On its official handle on X, BJP Karnataka stated, "Jihadis run amok on the streets of Shivamogga, brandishing swords and weapons, while 'secular' Siddaramaiah has gone into hiding. With the Congress government back in power, Jihadis organisations have emerged from hiding to terrorise Hindus with no fear of action. Congress has surrendered to jihadis."



Police deployed at Ragigudda in Shivamogga on Monday, a day after the city witnessed stone-throwing incidents | EXPRESS

CM seeks report from DG&IGP

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday sought a report on the Shivamogga stone-throwing incident from Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG and IGP) Alok Mohan. Addressing reporters here, Siddaramaiah said that the State Government will not tolerate such incidents and will take stern action against those involved in stone-throwing in Shivamogga. The Chief Minister said that the miscreants responsible for the incident have been arrested and cases booked against them. "Shivamogga is now peaceful. Security has been tightened across the city," he added. Meanwhile, Home Minister Parameshwara said people from both groups have been arrested in connection with the stone-throwing incident. "We have taken them to custody and will take action as per law. We cannot disclose further details," he added.

Weapons were replicas: Cop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"SOME miscreants threw stones at seven houses. An Omni car, an autorickshaw and some two-wheelers were damaged in the incident," the SP said.

Meanwhile, local BJP leaders alleged that a replica of a sword was carried and some even displayed sharp weapons during the Eid Milad procession. But a senior officer said the replica was made of cardboard and hence, it does not come under the Arms Act to initiate action.

Reacting to some videos showing weapons being carried during the procession, the officer said they were also made of cardboard. It was the replica of the weapon of Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law Ali. The weapon is called Zulfiqar and is worshipped. It was not the sword of Tipu Sultan as alleged," the officer clarified.

Aarti waved at mosque, 5 arrested in Gangavati

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Koppal

THE Koppal police registered a suo motu case against five persons after a video of people showing the aarti to a mosque during a Ganesha procession went viral on social media. The incident occurred in front of Jamia mosque at Gangavati town in Koppal district on Sunday.

The police registered cases

against Shrikanth Hosakeri, Kumar Hugar, Chennabasava Hugar, Sangamesh Ayodhya and Yamnur Rathod. They asked a few social media groups to take down the video as it may create confusion among people. The video has been receiving mixed reactions on social media as some said it was an act of communal harmony, while others felt the ritual was not necessary in front of the mosque.

A police official said that a group standing near the mosque objected to the rituals and fireworks being burst in front of the prayer site. The police posted near the mosque pacified the crowd and allowed the procession to move. The case was registered on Monday. "There was panic among people when the Ganesha proces-

sion stopped in front of the Jamia mosque. While some youth waved aarti to the mosque, some threw vermilion," a police official said.

The Koppal police are now planning to release dos and don'ts on posting sensitive content involving communities on social media. The directions are likely to come in another two days.

Prepare distress formula, place it before SC, CWMA: Ex-CM to govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

SENIOR BJP leader and former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said that the Karnataka government should hold consultations with legal experts and all stakeholders and come out with a distress formula on sharing of Cauvery water with Tamil Nadu and present it before the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). He was speaking at an indefinite protest organised by Ritha Hitharakshana Samiti in Mandya. Bommai said that the samiti has led the Cauvery agitation for the last four decades. "We (BJP) are with the people of Mandya and support the farmers' movement," the former CM said.

He opined that there is a need to find a permanent solution to the century-old dispute. "TN will receive rains till November. But that is not the case with Karnataka that has been hit by a poor south-west monsoon. There are no accurate facts and information available with CWMA on sharing of Cauvery water. Hence, the State government should come out with a distress formula and take forward it based on the facts," he added.

Bommai said the PM in the past had the power to handle such issues. "That is not the case after the authority was formed. The apex court and CWMA, however, should be apprised of the prevailing ground situation and the water available in the Cauvery basin," he said. Accusing TN of cultivating more area than what is permitted, he said Karnataka should inform about this to the SC and CWMA. The authority, unfortunately, stuck to the pre-independence agreements, he claimed. The State Government should effectively argue the case in the courts and get



Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai speaks at a protest against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, in Mandya on Monday | EXPRESS

approval from the SC to go ahead with the Makedatu balancing reservoir project.

"In 2018, the SC directed Karnataka to release 12 tmcft of water to TN in two weeks. But we did not release water... we convinced the court of the ground situation and the court reduced the quantum of water. The present-day Congress government should have taken a similar stand," Bommai added.

He said that if the government had held the Irrigation Consultative Committee meetings in June or July and released water to the fields, the farmers would not have faced any problems.

Calling the irrigation minister's claims that water flowing to TN was due to seepage a lie, Bommai said the previous government had replaced the sluice gates. Meanwhile, former minister and BJP MLA R Ashoka said the Karnataka government began searching for documents only after TN approached the Supreme Court. Taking part in a farmers' protest at Sir M Visvesvaraya Park in Mandya, Ashoka said release of water to TN would affect water supply to Bengaluru. "People of Bengaluru will settle scores with the government for the lapses in its handling of the Cauvery row," he said.

The State Government should effectively argue the case in the courts and get approval from the SC to go ahead with the Makedatu balancing reservoir project

Basavaraj Bommai, former CM

Silent protest against release of water to TN

ENS @ Bengaluru

MEMBERS of various associations, including farmer leaders, have started a silent protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday, against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Convener of the Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti and president of State Sugarcane Growers Association president Kuruburu Shantakumar said they will continue the silent protest till the government stops releasing water to TN. He invited people from Bengaluru to join the protest. They will be on silent protest at the Freedom Park daily from 11 am to 1 pm.

Shantakumar, AAP state president Mukhyamantri Chandru, and several other leaders had on September 26 met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and demanded him to stop releasing water till the distress formula is worked out, convene a special session of the legislature to discuss the issue and immediately start the work on the Makedatu balancing reservoir project. "Since the government has not taken any decision on any of our demands, we launched the silent protest on Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti," Shantakumar said.

He accused the State Government of not taking the protesters' concerns seriously.

Hariprasad wants Siddu govt to follow Bihar, make caste census report public

BANSY KALAPPA
@ Bengaluru

A sulking Congress leader and MLC BK Hariprasad, who wants backward classes to be given their due, posted on 'X' on Monday that the State Government should release its caste census conducted in 2017.

He said Bihar released the caste census on Monday, and reminded Congress leaders that party senior leader Rahul Gandhi has spoken passionately about ensuring justice to backward classes.

His post comes days after Lingayat leader and Congress MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa saying that Lingayat officers are being ignored by the present government.

Unlike the Lingayat demand

for accommodation in the power hierarchy, the statement by former AICC general secretary is for providing backward classes with basic essentials -- roti, kapda aur makhan. Even during a recent meeting of backward community leaders at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru, Hariprasad had said many microscopic and most backward communities are ekeing out a living in most desperate situations and they should be accommodated by the government.

His supporters, referring to the Lingayat demand obliquely, said that while others are seeking to be accommodated in the ruling power structure, most backward groups are struggling for survival. Many backward communities, numbering less than 5 lakh, don't

have a single MLA, MLC, MP, minister or a government employee from their communities.

Former Backward Commission chairman CS Dwarakanath too had raised this issue on several forums, saying the most backward communities should be identified and supported. Experts, who did not want to be named, said, "Hariprasad is asking that the most backward communities first be identified and the census is the best way to identify them and then support them."

But the majority communities, Vokkaliga and Lingayat, are not pleased with the census and have not backed the demand to make it public.

Hariprasad hails from the backward Billava-Ediga community that accounts for around 5-6 per cent of the population.



REMEMBERING MAHATMA
CM Siddaramaiah leaves after paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on Gandhi Jayanti, on the premises of Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Monday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

After HDK, Yogeshwar predicts fall of K'taka govt after Sankranti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CLOSE on the heels of senior JDS leader and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy predicting that the Congress government in Karnataka will collapse in six months, BJP leader and former minister CP Yogeshwar has said that the government will fall well ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"As the Sun changes its path after Sankranti, there will be change in (state) politics and it's doubtful that the Congress government will survive. We will not carry out any operation similar to what DK Shivakumar is doing... disgruntled Congress MLAs on their own will rebel against the government," he told reporters in Channarayana.

He claimed that some of the Congress MLAs who are in touch with him are unhappy with the Congress government as they are unable to perform their duties as legislators as they are not getting grants owing to the five guarantees.

A political change is expected after the end of 2023 as disgruntled Congress MLAs are thinking in the opposite direction as they were worried about their political future, Yogeshwar said.

"Due to lack of coordination in the Congress, a fight has started for the posts of CM and DyCM. I know 16 Congress MLAs and we talk to each other whenever possible and they will revolt against the government," he claimed.

Referring to Veerashaiva Mahasabha president and

senior Congress MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa's statement that the community's officers got a raw deal in the government, Yogeshwar felt that certain communities are being targeted which is why the Veerashaiva Lingayat CM issue has come to the fore.

He attacked Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh, brother of DyCM Shivakumar, alleging that he had highhandedness in the constituency. "BJP will snatch the seat this time... people will teach Suresh a lesson for his ego," Yogeshwar said.

On the BJP-JDS alliance, Yogeshwar said that it was inevitable for both parties to take on the DKS brothers and felt that it would benefit both the parties. JDS got the consent from its ranks and files for the alliance on Sunday at a meeting held at HD Kumaraswamy's farmhouse in Kethaganahalli. "We will hold a meeting of Channarayana BJP leaders next week and will convince them about the alliance. Later, we will have another meeting with JDS leaders. It is up to the BJP high command to ask me to contest from Bengaluru Rural. I will do so. Otherwise, I will support the JDS candidate," he said.

Meanwhile, former minister and BJP leader R Ashoka, too, predicted the fall of the Congress Karnataka government before Sankranti. "There is no doubt. I am confident that the government will collapse," he said, adding that JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy is at it to pull down "the most corrupt government".

SETBACK TO JDS AS HDK AIDE, SUPPORTERS JOIN CONG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a major setback for the Janata Dal (Secular), which has decided to ally with the Bharatiya Janata Party for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy's aide and former Channarayana MLA M C Ashwath joined the Congress at the KPCC office here on Monday. With him came his supporters, including Muslim leaders.

"On Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, we are inducting JDS leaders and workers who have faith in the Congress party's ideology. Thousands of people from across the state have come forward to join the



Former Channarayana MLA and JDS leader MC Ashwath and other JDS leaders join the Congress in the presence of KPCC chief DK Shivakumar, in Bengaluru on Monday

party," said Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar.

Replying to former prime

minister HD Deve Gowda's warning to him that his ploy to 'poach' scores of JDS leaders will not work, Shivakumar

asked why he shouldn't welcome leaders who are ready to accept the party's ideology and are upset with the JDS-BJP alliance.

"Revered Deve Gowda, you and your party leaders have said many times that you will not join hands with the BJP. But now you have joined hands. In such a situation, shouldn't I call those who believe in our

party? Have you not played chess and football by inducting many Congress leaders into your party in the past?" he asked.

He pointed out that CM Ibrahim, who was a Congress MLC, was forced to resign and inducted into the JDS, but was eventually ignored while taking a decision to ally with the BJP.

MUSLIM LEADERS WILL JOIN CONG, SAYS ZAMEER

Housing and Minorities Welfare Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan on Monday said that hundreds of Muslim leaders from across Old Mysuru region, including Ramanagara, Hassan and Mandya districts, will be inducted into the Congress at a mega convention to be held at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru soon. He observed that Deve Gowda was secular till recently, and the community got social justice, but was now upset with the BJP-JDS alliance.

MUNCHINGIPUTTU MAOIST CASE

ONE HELD AS NIA RAIDS 62 LOCATIONS IN TS, AP

Officials seize weapons, cash and incriminating material, probe frontal organisations furthering Maoist activities

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY
@Hyderabad

AS part of the investigation into the Munchingiputtu Maoist case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested one person from Andhra Pradesh after conducting raids in 62 locations across the Telugu states on Monday. The officials also seized weapons, cash and other incriminating material during the searches.

The accused, Chandra Narasimhulu, state executive committee member, Pragathi Karmika Samakya (PKS), was arrested, while a pistol and 14 rounds of ammunition were also confiscated from his residence in the Sri Sathya Sai district. Officials also seized Rs 13 lakh in cash from a residence in the Kadapa district, along

with Maoist literature and incriminating documents from other locations.

The raids covered 53 locations in Guntur, Palnadu, Vijayawada, East Godavari, Prakasam, Bapatla, Eluru, Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Nellore, Tirupati, Kadapa, Sri Sathya Sai, Anantapur and Kurnool districts in Andhra Pradesh; and nine locations in the districts of Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Hanamkonda, Rangareddy and Adilabad in Telangana.

Agency officials said Narasimhulu's custodial interrogation is expected to yield further information about the conspiracy relating to the attempts of various frontal organisations to further the activities of the proscribed CPI (Maoist) outfit.



NIA officials and policemen raid a house in Vijayawada on Monday | PRASANT MADUGULA

The frontal organisations include PKS, Civil Liberties Committee (CLC), Amarula Bandhu Mitrala Sangham (ABMS), Chaitanya Mahila Sangham (CMS), Kula Nirmulana Porata Samathi (KNPS), Patriotic Democratic Movement (PDM), Praja Kala Mandal (PKM), Revolutionary Writers Association (RWA) or Viplava Rachaitala Sangam (VIRASAM),

Human Rights Forum (HRF), Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners (CRPP) and Indian Association of Peoples Lawyers (IAPL). So far, NIA investigations have revealed that leaders and members of these frontal organisations were extending support to the CPI (Maoist), which was banned as a terrorist outfit in 2009. The premises raided on Monday be-

longed to members and cadres of these frontal organisations.

Leftist writings

On November 23, 2020, Munchingiputtu police had registered a case after receiving information about the movement of Maoists and the transportation of Leftist literature in the area under the Alluri Sitharama Raju district.

At that time, the police had intercepted Pangi Naganna, a TV journalist, while he was carrying Maoist literature, medicines, a red banner cloth, electrical wire bundles, batteries and pamphlets to hand over to the Maoist cadres. Detailed interrogation of Naganna revealed that the items were handed over to him by the leaders of the frontal organisations.

TDP action plan after SC verdict on Naidu's plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

TDP general secretary **Nara Lokesh**, who observed a day-long fast, along with party MPs and leaders in New Delhi on Monday, resenting the arrest of party supremo N Chandrababu Naidu in the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation scam case, said the future course of action would be chalked out based on the verdict of Supreme Court on the quash petition filed by the former chief minister.

Lokesh reiterated that he was in no way connected with the skill development corporation scam and irregularities in Amaravati Inner Ring Road alignment and the AP FiberNet project, as he did not deal with the subjects when he served as a minister in the TDP government.

Meanwhile, TDP supremo Naidu observed fast in Rajamahendravaram Central Prison from 8 am to 5 pm, resenting his arrest in a false case by the YSRC govern-

ment. According to jail sources, Naidu did not get home-cooked breakfast and lunch from his family members. They sent him fruit salad and finger millet java for dinner. Though the jail authorities urged Naidu to take food in the afternoon, he simply refused, stating that he was on a day's fast, sources added.

Naidu's wife Bhuvaneshwari also observed fast at the Satyameva Jayate programme organised by the TDP in Rajamahendravaram.

Several TDP activists also went on fast, expressing their solidarity to Naidu. "Naidu has been lodged in jail for the past 24 days for no fault of his. False cases have been foisted against Naidu as he has

been striving for the development and welfare of the people for the past four-and-a-half decades," Lokesh said. He demanded that if the YSRC government had any evidence whatsoever on Naidu's involvement in the skill development scam, it should be brought before the court.



Cong initiated quota for women: Siddu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE CM said Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress party were responsible for providing reservation to women in urban local bodies and panchayats. It is the Congress which took the initiative to provide political reservation for women. But the Union Government is now claiming that it had implemented political reservation for women. Now, reservation for women from Backward Classes is being demanded, he added.

Awards: Swachh Sarvekshan Gramin honour - 2023 survey

● 0 to 2,000 population category: Sanoor panchayat (Udupi), K Badaga (Kodagu), Kemmannu (Udupi), Nekkilady (Dakshina Kannada) and Sokker (Chikkamagaluru).

● 2,000 to 5,000 population category: Trasi (Udupi), Kilpady (Dakshina Kannada), Kashiapatna (Dakshina Kannada), Nandagad (Belgavi) and Seeghalli (Bengaluru Urban).

● Over 5,000 population category: Dodnalli (Uttara Kannada), Bavur (Vijayapura), Handanakere (Tumakuru), Kurbagatti (Dharwad) and Munnuru (Dakshina Kannada).

Gandhi Gram Puraskar

In all, 233 gram panchayats were honoured with this award. Hosadu and Badagetti gram panchayats in Udupi district and Tattgere and Belavattige GPs in Uttara Kannada received special Gandhi Gram Puraskar Award.



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik embarks on BJD's Jana Sampark Padayatra from Badagada in Bhubaneswar on Monday | EXPRESS

POLL YATRA

Leasing of C-category mining permits in Ballari irks activists

KIRAN BALANNAVAR @Ballari

THE Central Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has given the green signal to lease out mines in three districts of the state, including Ballari, for C-category mining. Following this move, activists are now worried about forest degradation, health deterioration and an increase in illegal mining in the Ballari district.

Recently, the FAC allowed 51 C-category mining in the state in which Ballari received the highest number of leases. At present, nearly 35 MMT worth of mining activities are under way in the Sandur mining area, with more than 12 mining companies operating.

Any increase in mining activities in the region could potentially affect health of the people in the surrounding villages and damage ASI-protected monuments, warn activists, alleging that the government is more concerned about revenues than pro-



tecting natural wealth.

Shrishail Aladhahalli, an activist from Sandur taluk, said people are worried after the FAC authorised C-category mining in the three districts (including Chitradurga and Tumakuru). Of them, Ballari is known for mining activities. Nearly 40 MMT of mining is allowed every year, with nearly 30 C-category leases in operation. "A few years ago, an ASI-protected temple located in a reserve forest area was damaged due to mining. Over 15 villages were located in the surroundings of the mining area. The declining health of villagers and ill-effects on wildlife were all attributed to mining. We are worried about the overall inaction of the government and negligence," he stated.

HONNAVAR PORT PROJECT IN DEEP WATER, KHANDRE PROMISES ACTION

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru



I will look into it and take the necessary corrective action. Every investment is precious to the state and investors' interests will be safeguarded

Eshwar Khandre

WHILE Industries Minister M B Patil has been in the US, seeking investment, there are stark stories of investors who have already ploughed hundreds of crores of rupees into Karnataka, and whose projects remain in limbo.

Honnavar Port Pvt Ltd (HPPL) has been struggling for over a decade to construct its port project, in the face of hostilities incited by vested interests. Project engineers have been unable to access machinery for over a year, with several instances of stone throwing. How coastal weather has treated the equipment is another question.

Meanwhile, in a setback to vested interests, who had launched a series of measures stalling the project posing as environmentalists, the National Green Tribunal in its order on September 26, upheld HPPL's contention. This came after a Karnataka HC order dated November 24, 2021. HPPL Executive Director Raghavendra Reddy said that following the two judicial pronouncements, he has requested the district administration for support, so that construction work could be restarted. On ecoroadblocks, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said, "I will look into it and take corrective action. Every investment is precious to

the state and investors' interests will be safeguarded."

Former FKCCI chairman J Crasta said with Karnataka being the second highest GST payer and GDP growth accelerating, more needs to be exported from here, so we need more ports. "Most of the cargo business from North India is going to Gujarat or Mumbai, while the South depends on Tuticorin or Chennai. We have to improve our ports to international standards," he said.

Ports Minister Mankal Vaidya said, "If HPPL had planned better in the beginning, this would not have happened. I will look into it and ensure the issue is sorted out," he said.

'Cities must do away with single-use plastic'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOREST, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday informed that only five cities of Karnataka have been declared as single-use plastic-free, which include Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Dharmasthala, and Tumkur. Accordingly, he implored all citizens to work towards making their cities single-use plastic-free as well.

Speaking to the media, after participating in a walk from Cubbon Park to Lalbagh to mark the start of the 69th Wildlife Week Celebrations (October 2-8) --organised by the Karnataka Forest Department, Khandre said the government has banned the manufacture and sale of Plastic of Paris (POP), and warned that stern action is being taken against all those violating these orders.

Similarly, action will also be taken against those involved in spreading plastic pollution.

He added that the forest department has cleared encroachment over 4,000 acres of land, which has since been reclaimed. More such drives will be undertaken in the coming days.

He asserted that there is a need to increase forest cover in the state as cases of man-animal conflict are on the rise. Steps are also being taken to reduce man-elephant conflict by increasing the rail barricade network. Khandre said that so far, 312 km has been covered, with an additional 300 km being done in the coming days. He also emphasised the need to maintain balance between ecology and development.

He pointed out that due to unprecedented development, many species have become extinct and some others are on the verge of extinction.

Accused held in dacoity case spilled beans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE accused threatened to kill her and the man if they informed the police about the incident and let them go. "This incident came to light when four of the accused were arrested in a dacoity case on September 18. Our policemen seized six motorcycles, nine mobile phones, one goods vehicle, and four swords.

During interrogation, the accused revealed their involvement in many cases, including the gangrape," SP Gulead said.

Meanwhile, the victim lodged a complaint on September 29 at Gokak city police station. Acting on the complaint, the police booked cases against the six accused and arrested four of them for gangrape. A police team led by Inspector Gopal Rathod arrested the accused no. 1 Ramesh Uddappa Khilari on October 1. He was injured when the vehicle he was driving met with an accident while trying to escape. He is being treated at Gokak Civil Hospital. A search is on for accused no. 6 Basavaraj Khilari, Gulead said.



PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client M/s. Lugano Solar Pvt Ltd is intending to take land on Lease below mentioned survey numbers. Sy. Nos. 24/A measuring (2-35) --from its owners K. Kanakappa S/o. late K. Basappa, 24/B (1-87) -Jogappa Huligappa minor guardian Tay Lingappa, 24/C (1-24) & 24/D (0-61) -Kunbaru Mayava W/o. Hanumappa, 25/A (0-42) -Kurubara Patappa S/o. Bayabasappa, 25/B (0-72) -Kuri Neelagangamma W/o. Late Bullappa, 25/B2 (0-21) -Kuri Kotappa S/o. Sanna Lingappa, 25/C (3-17) -Kurubara Patappa S/o. Bhavi Basappa, 25/D (3-42) -A. Paikha S/o. late Durgappa, 25/E (1-74) -K. Kadappa S/o. late Kanaketti Durgappa, 25/F (0-60) -Nagappa W/o. Hanumappa, 25/F (1-82) -Nogadara Honnurappa S/o. late Nogadara Chowdappa, 25/G (1-25) K. Tejeshwari W/o. K. Hemanna, 25/H (1-43) -Narasimhappa S/o. late Virupapura Bheemappa, 25/I (1-70) -Patappa S/o. late Bhavappa, 25/J (2-52) -Hanumantappa S/o. late Kadeppa, 26/A (1-59) -Nogadara Honnurappa S/o. late Nogadara Chowdappa, 26/C (1-0-87) & 27/A (1-0-75) -Kurubara Nagamma W/o. Mattali Kanchappa, 26/C2 (0-86) -Ningamma W/o. Kanaketti Basappa Badeladaku, 26/E (3-16) -Kattali Balappa S/o. Basappa Badeladaku Tinkappa, 27/A2 (0-75) -Ningamma W/o. Kanaketti Basappa, 27/C (0-59) -Kattali Balappa & Kanakappa S/o. Basappa Badeladaku, 27/D (0-52) -K. Govindappa S/o. Sakappa Badeladaku -27/E -Kadappa, Balappa, Sannaappa - (0-49), 27/F (1-17) E. -Eeranna S/o. Sathappa V., 27/G (1-18) -Rathappa V. S/o. Kariyappa, 28/A (0-12) -Kattali Anjanappa S/o. Balappa Badeladaku, 28/C (2-45) -Methhegappa S/o. late Metri Lingappa, 28/D (1-73) -Hanumappa S/o. Bharamappa Rampura (0-51) -Hanumappa S/o. Huchabasappa, Marakka S/o. Hanumappa (0-89), 28/F (1-16) -Metri Neelamma S/o. late Metri Neelappa, Guddappa, Siddappa S/o. Thindappa, 29/I (1-16) -Kuri Hemanna S/o. Kuri Mallappa 29/A1 (1-87) -Shivalingappa S/o. Doddha Gangappa S/o. late V. Chappa & Basappa S/o. late V. Chappa, 36/C3 (0-37) 36/A (0-50) -V. Somappa S/o. late V. Bheemappa, 36/I (2-32) V. -Tindappa S/o. late V. Bheemappa, 36/2 (0-60) -Ramakka S/o. late Gangadharappa, 36/3 (0-45) -V. Gangappa S/o. late V. Bheemappa, 37/A (0-47) -Kuri Karibasappa S/o. Kuri Siddappa, 37/B (0-47) -Kuri Kadappa S/o. Nagappa, 37/E (1-0-96) & 38/A (0-75) -Kuri Parvappa S/o. Sannalingappa, 37/E2 (0-37) 37/F (0-82) -Kuri Renukamma W/o. Kuri Hemappa, 37/G (1-8) -V. Ramakka W/o. late V. Gangappa, 37/G2 (0-89) -Doddha Gangappa S/o. late V. Chappa, 37/G3 (0-85) -Somappa S/o. late V. Bheemappa 37/I (1-55) -Kanaketti Anjanappa S/o. late Hanumappa, 37/J (0-52) -Murthappa S/o. late Gonbasappa, situated at Gajapura Village Kotturu Hobli and Taluk Vijayanagar District.

If anybody or any authority having any right, title, claims, interest or objections over the same, may file their objections with documents to below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of this public notice. Failing which my client will proceed to taking lands for lease the above said Properties by treating no one has objections in respect of the said properties.

Subrahmanya Hegde
Advocate
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES
#76-77, Krishna Krupa Building Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road
Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-20. Mob: 9060089259.

Date: 03.10.2023
Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 1, BENGALURU

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhawan Road, Bangalore - 560001

WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY DRC NO.993/2019 (Out of OA No.396/2019)

To: Sri Paritosh Kumar, Senior Manager, Canara Bank, ARM Branch -II, Bangalore-1.
Between: Canara Bank ARM Branch II ...Certificate Holder
And: M/s Chamudeshwari & Others ...Defendants/Certificate Debtors

1. M/s Chamudeshwari, Presently Known as M/s S.R. Industries, Represented by its Proprietor: Mr. Uttam Chand Jain, S/o Sri Mool Chand Jain, No. 16/A, Kumbalagodu Industrial Area 2nd Phase, Gerapalya Big Banyan Tree Road, Bengaluru 560074.
2. Smt. Manju Devi, W/o Uttam Chand Jain, R/o: No. 43/1 Cottonpet Cross S.M. Lane, Bengaluru-560053
3. M/s M.M. Plastic Udyog, Represented by its Proprietor: Mr. Uttam Kumar Jain, S/o Sri Mool Chand Jain, No.16/A, Kumbalagodu Industrial Area, 2nd phase, Gerapalya Big Banyan Tree Road, Bengaluru 560074. ...Certificate Debtors

WHEREAS M/s Chamudeshwari & Others, the certificate debtors herein were ordered by the Recovery Certificate of this Tribunal passed on the 24th day of August 2019 in O.A. No. 396/2019 to pay to the Applicant Bank/FI Rs.2,81,99,861/- plus interest and costs, being the sum as noted below, and whereas the said amount has not been paid,

Recovery Certificate	Details
Principal	Rs. 2,81,99,861.00
Interest from 22/03/19 to 31/10/2020	Rs. 71,34,610.00
Costs	Rs. 2,09,755.00
Further Interest from 01/11/2020 - till realisation	
Total	Rs.3,65,44,226.00

This is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed and unless the said certificate debtors shall pay to you the above said sum and the costs of this attachment to the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.

You are further commanded to return the Warrant of or before the 15 of Jan, 2021 with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed or why it has not been executed.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

ITEM NO.1: All that part and parcel of immovable property bearing no. 43/1, PID no. 29-95-43/1, situated at in Shetty Muddanna Lane, Cottonpet Cross, Bengaluru, in BBMP Ward no. 29, entire area of second floor measuring 1309 along with 461.25 Sq. ft. of undivided share in land and bounded as: East by: Venkatachallappa's Property West by: Adavaliappa's property North by: Reddy Bhattacharya Lane, South by: Kapoor Chand's Property and others

ITEM NO.2: All that part and parcel of Land Industrial Land in Plot no. 16/A, Kumbalagodu Benchyalli Kalha No. 121, Property No. 17716/A, situated at Sy no. 95, Kumbalagodu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West on the North: 84 feet on the South: 80 feet, North to South 157 Feet, on the West 168 Feet, totally measuring 140 Sq. Meters or 14368 Sq. ft. together with Industrial Shed Constructed thereon as bounded East by: Plot No/15/B, West by: Plot No. 16/B, North by: Road, South by: Plot No. 14/B.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 22nd December, 2020

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER 1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

ODI WORLD CUP IS A BIG SKILLS TEST FOR CRICKET BOARD

THE ICC ODI World Cup begins Thursday. The final coat of paint is drying as the Narendra Modi stadium gets ready for the opening match between England and New Zealand. Yet somehow, the build-up to what is usually the biggest spectacle for Indian sports has been sedate. There could be a number of reasons for this unusual silence. From the Indian Premier League to bilateral series, India have been playing cricket continuously since January this year, leading to a fatigue among fans. Then there is the point that the first few days of the World Cup are clashing with the Asian Games. Coffee shops are still not discussing the prospects of Rohit Sharma and his Band of Blues. Except for veteran off-spinner R Ashwin's initial exclusion from the squad and later inclusion, few other topics have dominated debates.

Beyond that, so far the noise has been more about reasons that are not flattering for the Indian cricket board and the International Cricket Council. The schedule was announced late and then some matches needed to be rescheduled again. The travelling fans had a nightmare finalising their itinerary. On top, ticket sales started late; when they opened for sale, they were sold out in minutes. The fan experience has always been a concern for the Indian cricket board. This time the fans have called them out and said that their experience has been horrendous. Then there were visa issues for the Pakistan team.

Cricket in India is beyond sport; it is a way of life. It helps to heal scars, unite people and stir nationalistic passion. The sport has transcended into something more profound. So, when the cricket finally begins this Thursday, the sentiments will change. There will be cricket on the streets and at every corner. This will give the BCCI and the ICC the perfect opportunity to brush off the bad taste left by the scheduling, change and ticketing issues. The BCCI has said it would add more facilities to the stadiums to make the tournament more memorable and enjoyable for the fans. This World Cup would showcase the BCCI's organisational abilities under president Roger Binny and secretary Jay Shah. All stakeholders must ensure a smooth conduct of the event. Otherwise, whether India win or lose the Cup, it will reflect poorly on the country's organisational acumen.

DRUG ABUSE RISING, START DEBATE TO DECRIMINALISE

OVER half the people who use opioids around the world are in Asia and they account for one in every hundred Asians. The 2023 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime says South-west Asia had one of the highest incidences of drug abuse in 2021—an estimated 3.2 percent of the population. Unsurprisingly, the young remain the most vulnerable to abuse. The challenge of addressing the issue is huge in India given that we are the world's youngest country. Around two-thirds of our population are below the age of thirty-five. Nearly two-fifths are aged thirteen to thirty-five years; the age profile of a typical drug abuser is in this age bracket, says the UN office, with initiation in the teens.

The number of drug seizures and volumes seized are going up at an alarming rate across India. The *modus operandi* for trafficking in bulk and peddling to consumers are changing. The use of the darknet—a part of the internet that requires specific software or protocols for access—for placing orders and cryptocurrency for payment pose new challenges to law enforcers. Couriers are delivering drugs to the doorstep. Synthetic drugs have become increasingly dominant because they are cheap to make and easy to deliver. They are not tied to geographically-fixed crops such as opium and use a wide array of ingredients that can be sourced easily. Methamphetamine is the world's biggest illegally manufactured synthetic drug; criminals are devising novel synthesis techniques for them, establishing new bases of operations to hoodwink regulators. The biggest concern is that higher-education institutions have become breeding grounds for abuse. Drugs on campus are a disturbing and growing reality—they are more easily available and the average teen has a higher buying power.

Possession and use of commercial quantities of banned drugs are non-bailable offences under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The Act criminalises the offender, who is also the victim of abuse. This is where the dilemma and stigma lie. The debate on decriminalisation has not taken off in earnest in India. The argument is that it will not prevent people from going down the abyss. The positive side is that people may get timely medical intervention with the right monitoring and control. Regulatory responses alone will not wipe out the menace; perhaps nothing will. We need to look within to reach out to those who may have crossed a line in the search of pleasure.

QUICK TAKE

CARING FOR OUR CARE HOMES

THE board that assigns quality certificates to hospitals has drafted standards for care homes for the elderly and the differently-abled. They have put up norms such as the size and running of homes, the hygiene standards needed, and the residents' rights. Care homes are becoming more of a necessity in urban India. These draft guidelines should now be discussed, adopted and people be told what the grades mean. The board has left most of the monitoring to the organisations, and says will check every two years if a home qualifies for a change of grades. With a large unregulated market already in play, we suggest a yearly check.

ONE of the big takeaways from India's G20 presidency has been the broad understanding that the nation has demonstrated in its strategic autonomy. This gets one to analyse what strategic autonomy means and whether India has been strategically autonomous for the last 75 years. The interest in the theme really stems from the trigger of the Ukraine war, where India has displayed utmost strategic maturity through a studied neutrality despite much pressure from the West. For good measure, India has been deciding its own interests without coming under external pressure.

Strategic autonomy is defined as the ability of a state to pursue its national interests and adopt its preferred foreign policy without depending heavily on other foreign states. It is not something that grows automatically with the progressive existence of a nation in any guaranteed way. It is dynamic; much depends on the quality of leadership at a given time and the degree of strategic confidence that the nation enjoys. The degree to which strategic autonomy can be pursued by a nation is subject to its own comprehensive national power (CNP), its demographic make-up, its ideological leanings and political will prevailing at a given time, and other such attributes. An essential aspect of CNP is military capability, which contributes to strategic confidence and in turn to strategic autonomy.

As a member of the international community, a nation is obligated to follow rules and norms; it will otherwise be declared an outcast at the behest of the most powerful international cliques of the time. North Korea remains strategically autonomous but also carries a rogue status and pursues dictatorial norms which are against the interest of its people, as do many other nations. What we can be certain about is that strategic autonomy is always graded and never absolute. In other words, rarely can a nation follow its interests to the last; there will always be a degree of compromise, a realist approach so to say.

One may claim that in the years when India followed non-alignment to the tee it was generally strategically autonomous. Yet in 1962, we had to compromise and seek military aid, just as in 1966 when a drought forced us to accept the infamous PL 480 variety of wheat in aid. Our military and agricultural deficiency adversely affected our CNP and therefore the autonomy. In 1971, we pursued our strategic interest and militarily assisted the erstwhile East Paki-

We should rebuff pressure from others and stay strategically autonomous. Past compromises have given way to the present confidence. We are more *atmanirbhar* today

INDIA STAYS ON ITS OWN PATH IN LEAGUE OF NATIONS

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir



SOURYADIP SINHA

stan. It was mainly possible after signing the Indo-Soviet Treaty, but the same could not win us peace in the Shimla Agreement where we were apparently under immense pressure. The natural follow-up to the military victory should have been the resolution of J&K on our terms; it was not to be as even the Soviet Union had limitations in extending its support.

In 1974, we made amends by testing our nuclear weaponisation capability at Pokhran, which conveyed an appropriate message to China despite the opposition of most other nations. It was a demonstration of our strategic confidence and autonomy, proving that such autonomy is contingency-based and dynamic.

A dark period for India was from 1980 to

1991 as the nation lost its self-confidence at the altar of some poor strategic decisions and a deteriorating internal security situation. That further indicates how dynamic strategic autonomy can be. It is obvious that peace and stability at the centre, an absence of internal violence, and a stable and upwardly mobile economy enable the pursuance of a foreign policy which encompasses all national interests and is thus strategically autonomous.

As the economy improved after 1991, India chose to take its autonomous decisions in the field of economics but was hugely pressured by the US on J&K. It was a measure of the political community's resilience, maturity and sense of patriotism which ensured that the joint resolution of the two

CENTRAL LAW NEEDED TO END KILLINGS FOR FEAR OF WITCHCRAFT

B K SHARMA

Former director-general of police, Odisha

SALO Devi was mercilessly beaten to death and her family members seriously injured in the dead of one June night this year. The alleged crime of the 58-year-old from Jharkhand's Gumla district? Villagers suspected her to be a witch who had prolonged the illness of another villager's infant daughter. A week later in Rajasthan's Ajmer, a 22-year-old woman's hair was chopped off and she was tortured with scorching stones, tar and charcoal by her in-laws who accused her of being a witch.

Earlier this year, Pandu Hembram and his wife Parbati, an elderly tribal couple living in West Bengal's Sainthia police district, were killed on a similar suspicion. In March, Mamta Nishad's in-laws made her walk twelve times on burning coal and nine times on iron nails to prove that she did not practise black magic; she was hospitalised in Chhattisgarh's Durg town.

The National Crime Records Bureau says that during 2015-2021, 663 women were killed on suspicion of practising witchcraft—95 deaths a year. The actual number would be much higher as many cases in remote areas are not reported to the police and are handled within the community. Jharkhand alone registered 4,556 cases under Prevention of Witch Practices Act during 2015-2020—more than two cases a day.

Our institutional response has been two-fold: awareness generation and criminalisation. The awareness efforts have been half-hearted and piecemeal. Some states have enacted laws criminalising the practice, but most of them fail to meet an adequate standard—the prescribed punishments have been lenient and there are no institutional mechanisms to quickly investigate and prosecute such cases. Some of the state laws have not deterred such cases.

In 1999, Bihar was the first state to enact a law on this, which was adopted verbatim in 2001 by Jharkhand. It has only eight sections and provides for punishments ranging from three months to a year, and a fine ranging from ₹1,000-2,000. Expressing serious concern over the law's failure, the Jharkhand High Court initiated a case and directed the state government in August 1, 2023 to file a comprehensive report on the steps taken to contain the menace.

Odisha is no less of a hotspot for such crimes. It never enacted a law till its high court took note of activist Sashiprave Bindhani's plea in 2012 and directed the state to introduce a bill within a year. The state's law is almost a copy of Bihar's. It provides for sentences of up to three years

and a maximum fine of ₹5,000. The act erroneously treats witchcraft as a gender-specific offence, though many men have also been killed on the suspicion.

Chhattisgarh's 2005 law is a slight improvement, treating witchcraft as a gender-neutral offence and extending imprisonment to five years. Rajasthan's 2015 Act provides for punishment from three to seven years, a fine of ₹50,000, and empowers the state to impose collective fines on a village in cases of witch-branding, and provides for rehabilitation of the victim. This law is also gender-specific to women.



EXPRESS

State laws have proved ineffective in deterring people's irrational fear of witchcraft. Records show almost a hundred women are killed around the country every year on the mere suspicion. A central law should inform more, increase penalties and plan rehabilitation

Maharashtra had introduced an anti-superstition bill in 2003, but had kept it on the backburner until the killing of Narendra Dabholkar in August 2013. The state then brought an ordinance banning black magic and made it into an Act in December. It criminalises a number of evil practices including witchcraft, provides for punishment of six months to seven years, and a fine of ₹5,000-50,000.

Karnataka's 2017 law is a replica of Maharashtra's and makes sixteen evil practices including witchcraft punishable. Though the bill was passed by the state in November 2017, it was notified only in January 2020. After tremendous public pres-

sure and repeated interventions by the Guwahati High Court, Assam passed its own law in 2015—by far the most stringent of all the state laws, it provides for a maximum punishment of ten years and a fine of up to ₹1 lakh. Special courts are mandated to complete the trials within a year and victims are assured of rehabilitation and compensation.

It is obvious that there has been a marked reluctance and an inordinate delay in enacting these laws until specific incidents, popular demand or judicial directions made it imperative. Hence these laws are not uniform and their punishments not stringent.

States such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and Meghalaya have chosen not to enact their own laws yet. The Kerala Yukthi Vadhi Sangam filed a plea in February 2023 in high court to force such a law in the state. West Bengal is yet to enact a law despite an announcement by the State Law Commission in 2018. Most state laws are based on carceral jurisprudence and do not incorporate essential restorative provisions of rehabilitation and compensation to the victim.

Such shortcomings make it imperative to have a central law providing for prevention, penalisation and rehabilitation. The Odisha High Court observed in the Jitu Murmu case of 2020: "The absence of a central legislation has resulted in lack of uniformity in the application across the country." A central law will iron out the inconsistencies in definitions, objects and punishments. It must incorporate standard features such as appointing special courts, stringent bail conditions, monetary compensation, raising awareness, victim rehabilitation and witness protection.

India is a signatory to many international conventions that decry discrimination and support the right to safety and to live a free and decent life, especially for women. In 2016, Raghav Lakhanpal introduced such a bill in the Lok Sabha. It never saw the light of day for reasons unexplained. It is time to introduce an updated bill and to comprehensively counter the curse.

(Views are personal.)
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MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

India's prowess

P S Raghavan's *Canada outburst dishonours code among spies* (Oct 1) is a lucid explanation of international security matters and intelligence protocols with all its nuances. India is neither a vassal state nor is it dependent on another nation for arms; it must not exhibit needless obsequiousness. It is time for the nation to act with conviction to uphold its sovereign rights and claim what it deserves.

AM Chakravarty, Hyderabad

Democracy's troubles

Ref: *Democracy not enough to deter autocracy* (Oct 1). Democracy always has the potential to turn into an autocracy. An autocrat can be a leftist or rightist. Innocuous democrats can turn into the worst dictators if surrounded by sycophants, an obvious example being Indira Gandhi. People should always be vigilant lest democracy turns into a dictatorship.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Hardworking honeybees

Ref: *Tradition teaches us that to bee is the answer* (Oct 2). It is nice that the columnist has touched upon the honeybee's service to all on earth. The message of the column will make young students follow the path of hard work, self defense and survival in any situation.

Jayachandran C, Chennai

Epic column

Renuka Narayanan has truly surpassed herself with the column on honeybees. I will not hesitate calling this an 'epic' as it imparts a gamut of scientific and metaphysical knowledge. From the holy verses of the *Quran* to a story from the *Panchatantra*, she has covered it all. Subhanallah!

Sukumar Mandalika, email

Annamalai's views

Ref: *Slim chance of reconciling with AIADMK now: BJP* (Oct 2). Annamalai's press meet was good. His tone and tenor was set on a massive transformation of the political system. He strongly condemned the use of politics as a tool to make quick money, and advised the media to uphold journalistic ethics. I see this as a step forward to cleanse the political system. No flattery, straight from the heart.

K Venkatasubramanian, Coimbatore

Selfless teachers

Ref: *300 teachers find call of duty in remote areas* (Oct 2). It is heartening to know that more than 300 teachers volunteered to serve in remote areas, giving up comforts to provide quality education to students. A noble feat indeed. More important is the increased trust of local people in these teachers. If we could have more teachers like them, the country would transform into 'Naya Bharat'.

Pratap Nayak, Bhubaneswar



Kamal Nath @OfficeOfKamNath
Congress has always stood with social justice. The decision to give 27% quota to OBCs in MP was also taken by Congress govt, which was abolished by BJP



K C Venugopal @kcvenugopalmp
We implemented OPS in Congress-ruled states because it is their right. This crowd of 20 lakh people tells a story - the BJP's days are numbered



Shobha Karandlaje @ShobhaBJP
The Talwar procession in Shimoga by fanatics sends a dangerous message to society. The real question is: Why did the Congress govt allow it?

'Democratisation of civil aviation happening in true sense'

Hoping to set up global aviation hub in Delhi, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia says stress is no longer limited to Tier 1 cities as Tier 2 & 3 towns also get attention

MINISTER of Civil Aviation and Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia is confident that the BJP-led government will come back to power in 2024 with a clear majority. He says democratisation of the civil aviation sector in India began after 2014 which saw additions in the number of airports, an increased aircraft fleet and a surge in passenger traffic.

In conversation with **Yeshi Seli**, he said within a span of a year the Delhi international airport would be the second largest in the world in terms of throughput (the number of aircraft using the runway system per unit time), the first being Atlanta in the US. Excerpts



Narendra Modi as a result of which there has been a tremendous growth. Let me tell you how. This sector had an aircraft fleet size of roughly 400 aircraft until 2014. Thereafter it witnessed a 74% growth and the fleet size is slated to be in the range of 1,200 to 1,500 aircraft by 2030.

In the first 66 years after India's Independence, 74 airports were built. Post-2015, we can boast of an additional 75 airports, heliports, water dromes in a span of 9 years. Around 90% of the 149 airports are operational. The number of airports will increase to 200 by 2030.

Has this growth been commensurate with the increase in passenger traffic?

Absolutely yes. If you were to look at the number of passengers who travelled by air, the number was close to 6 crore in the domestic sector until 2014. This has now jumped to 14.5 crore and it will increase to 42 crore by 2030.

That means that there was a 1.5 X jump in passenger traffic in the past nine years and in the next 10 years, it will witness a



Q If you were to look at the number of passengers who travelled by air, the number was close to 6 crore in the domestic sector until 2014. This has now jumped to 14.5 crore and it will increase to 42 crore by 2030. That means that there was a 1.5 times jump in passenger traffic in the past nine years

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel

3X jump. There has been a focus on passenger growth under the UDAN (Udega Desh Ka Aam Nargrik) scheme, launched by the Prime Minister as an important arm of the civil aviation policy. The objective was to facilitate the common man to fly.

How has the UDAN scheme

helped passengers?

The UDAN scheme saw redundant airports revived. This included airports like Jharsuguda in Odisha, Rupsi in Assam, Kishanganj in Rajasthan and Dharbhanga in Bihar. These airports now see a passenger traffic of anywhere between

100,000 to five lakh annually. The emphasis is no longer only the Tier 1 cities, but also on Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns. There were roughly 2,50,000 flights under this scheme that facilitated 1.28 crore to fly under the VGF (Viability Gap Funding) scheme. This shows that democratisation of the civil aviation sector has happened in the true sense.

Metropolitan cities too have seen a growth in passenger and air traffic. Can you elaborate?

The demand in the metros is tremendous and is exploding. In the six metros, we have a total of 220 million throughput capability on an annual basis. We are expanding across all the metros and in some places building a second airport like Jewar in NCR and Navi Mumbai. This will increase the capacity to 460 million throughput by 2030.

The throughput capacity in Delhi is 70 million at present and this will increase to 109 million by February-March 2024. This will make Delhi the second largest airport in the world in terms of throughput, second only to Atlanta on a global scale. This is the scale that India is attaining at present and at present, we are com-

pletely maxed out.

How is the fleet size being augmented in India?

You may be aware that Air India has given an order for 470 new aircraft out of which 250 are from Airbus and 220 from Boeing. Out of this fleet, 400 aircraft would be narrow-bodied and 70 wide-bodied. Besides, IndiGo has ordered 500 aircraft from Airbus. So India will have 970 new aircraft with just two airlines by 2030-35. Besides, the UDAN scheme (which in the last two decades saw shutdowns

and bankruptcy) has led to the emergence of four regional airlines - FLY Big, FLY 91, Star Air and India One Air. The fleet includes small aircraft which include 90 seaters, 9 seaters, 16 seaters, ATRs. This has enhanced regional connectivity to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

What is the future of private carriers in India, considering that some have run into rough weather?

One airline that has grown is Akasa and I must compliment the team which has grown from one aircraft to 20 in a span of 12 months and has already acquired a 5% market share. They are not just expanding their fleet but have got clearance

from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to fly in international sectors too.

Among the airlines that have had issues, Jet Airways is trying to sort out its issues with NCLT, GoFirst had contractual issues with Pratt and Whitney while SpiceJet has issues with creditors and with their engine. We are here to assist them in whatever way we can. We have an Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) which many airlines have utilised.

Are you looking at enhancing connectivity to other international sectors?

There are many countries that are seeking additional connections to India. We already have Air Services Agreements (ASA) with 116 countries and we have an Open Skies Policy (OSP) with 25 countries. OSP is done with countries beyond 5,000 km from India. Last year we did OSP with Canada and the Maldives and this year with New Zealand. These things keep evolving.

We are also optimistic about setting up an international aviation hub in Delhi. With Air India and IndiGo having a huge network of operations and enhanced airport infrastructure at airports, this will soon become a reality.

War of words between Cong, BJP on caste survey

Rahul ups the ante, says crucial to know caste statistics of India



Q The caste census of Bihar revealed that OBC + SC + ST are 84% in the state. Therefore, it is important to know the caste statistics of India

Rahul Gandhi, MP

OBC, EBC have 63% population

Bihar survey has revealed that Other Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes together account for 63 per cent of the state's total population.

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE much-awaited Bihar caste survey results have provided a potent political weapon for the Opposition parties to counter the BJP ahead of the 2024 general election.

The Bihar survey has revealed that Other Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes together account for 63 per cent of the state's total population.

The Congress party underscored the importance of assessing the caste statistics of India, with party MP Rahul Gandhi, who has upped the ante on the demand for a caste census in poll-bound states Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, reiterating the issue of under-representation in top government jobs. "The caste census of Bihar has revealed that OBC + SC + ST are 84% in the state. Therefore, it is important to know the caste statistics of India," he said.

Gandhi wrote on X that "out of 90 secretaries of the Central Government, only 3 are OBC who handle only 5 per cent of India's budget. The

greater the population, the greater the rights - this is our pledge." After the formation of Opposition bloc INDIA alliance, the social justice parties and Congress have come together on the new social justice agenda as the election plank ahead of the crucial election.

The parties have raised demands to conduct a nationwide caste census to assess the deprivation levels and check whether welfare schemes have reached the last person at the bottom of the pyramid. The parties argue that a caste census will help to identify the economically and socially deprived sections.

Though the Mandal Commission has pegged the OBC population at 52 per cent, there is a feeling among the community that its numerical strength must have grown manifold over the years and it is left behind on affirmative action.

At present, quota for the OBCs is capped at 27 per cent in government jobs, as 22.5 per cent reservation already existed for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.



Q In our next five years of tenure in power, the country will become the third most powerful economy in the world. Those who were given six decades in power by the country, could have easily done what we've done in just nine years. But they instead played with emotions of the poor and continue to play the same game. They divided the country on caste lines and continue to commit same sin even now.

Narendra Modi, PM

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR/ENS
@ New Delhi/Bhopal

ON a day Grand Alliance-ruled Bihar released its caste survey findings, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Opposition of "working to divide the country on caste lines".

Lashing out at the Opposition without naming any political party or referring to Bihar's caste survey findings, he said, "In our next five years of tenure in power, the country will become the third most powerful economy in the world. Those who were given six decades in power by the country, could have easily done what we've done in just nine years. But they instead played with emotions of the poor and continue to play the same game. They divided the country on caste lines and continue to commit the same sin even now. They were drowned in corruption in the past and have grown more corrupt now."

BJP OBC Morcha Nikhil Anand accused Grand Alliance partners RJD and JD (U) of trying to play politics on

the basis of casteism. "But they will bite the dust and the way the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and the Vaishya community and the general upper castes people are being killed in Bihar, the state will plunge into another round of Jungal Raj."

He alleged that approach of Grand Alliance in Bihar is much "castiest". He termed the caste census report released as a "political bluff" to the people of state who are clamouring for development "but the government plunging them into a caste cauldron".

Highlighting the Modi government at the centre works for the welfare of subaltern communities especially the SC, ST and OBC as well as the poor in general, Anand said that the constitutional status to OBCs, the reservation for OBCs in NEET, the PM Vishwakarma Yojna and different schemes to economically promote the SC, ST, OBCs and poor in general have been given by the Modi government.

Hearing on naval veterans held in Qatar starts today, families remain optimistic

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE hearing of the ongoing trial for the eight Indian naval veterans will be held on Tuesday, October 3, after nearly two months. Family members of most of the veterans are in Doha at present and are expressing optimism of the outcome of the hearing.

"The wait has been long and arduous for 13 months. Even though there is speculation on the veterans being repatriated, going by the background one can't say anything till an actual announcement is made," said a source. Family members have to wait outside the trial court and are not privy to what goes on inside.

"From offering prayers to writing in to the Qatari authorities to grant the veterans pardon, families have left no stone unturned. The Indian government too has extended all possible support. We are avidly waiting to hear the outcome of the hearing," they added.

It has been a year since the eight veterans were sent back to pack their bags to leave for India, which didn't happen. Their packed bags always give them hope of returning back,

Long and arduous wait

The naval veterans were working for a naval consultancy firm called Dhara Consultancies which was owned by an Omani Emir. It was on the fateful night of August 30, 2022, when a knock from members of Qatar's Ministry of Interior urging them to leave for a naval exercise landed them in prison. From being under solitary confinement they are now living on a twin-sharing basis.

but it's the court which will decide on their fate soon.

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Mercy pleas have been filed by some members and there is hope that a pardon, if not a court trial could finally help in their repatriation to India.

Khalistan supporters protest near Indian High Commission in London

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

ON a day when India and Indians across the world were celebrating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Khalistani supporters chose to protest in the proximity of Indian High Commission in London.

This incident came barely two days after three Khalistani supporters prevented the Indian High Commissioner to United Kingdom (UK), Vikram Doraiswami, from entering a gurudwara in Glasgow. The High Commissioner was told he wasn't welcome in the gurudwara. They also threatened the gurudwara committee members who looked on helplessly as the High Commissioner got into his car and left the place.

On Monday, amid a heavy police cover in front of the Indian High Commission in London, the Khalistani protestors chose to continue with their protests across the road and waved flags along with posters of slain



The Indian High Commission

Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Old men and women and children were a part of the protest. They were demanding justice for Nijjar. Protestors had placed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's defaced cut-out.

India hasn't responded on the incident. Ambassador Doraiswami was busy with the day's engagements which included paying respects to Mahatma Gandhi in front of his statue at Parliament Square. Students from James School in London were also a part of the ceremony.

Meanwhile, the gurudwara committee in Glasgow has regretted the incident when the High Commissioner was prevented by three Khalistani supporters.

The gurudwara said 'unknown individuals' from outside the Glasgow area disrupted the peaceful proceedings of a Sikh place of worship, adding that the gurudwara is open to people from all communities and backgrounds.

It may be recalled that on March 20th a Khalistani protest had pulled down the Indian Flag of the IHC. Since then there has been a security cover in front of the Indian High Commission.

Varanasi painting showstopper at auction of PM's gifts

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

WITH the highest reserve price of ₹64.8 lakh, the painting on Varanasi ghat— 'A tribute to timeless charm of the city' by noted artist Paresh Maity is the showstopper of this year's auction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi mementos that started on Monday.

Other highlights were carved sandalwood Veena, painting of Ramar Pattabhishekhamin (Kerala mural painting of Ramayana), gold peacock 'perched elegantly before a heavily decorated aureate rose bush', an artwork of Kedarnath temple on canvas by admired painter Sujata Bajaj and wooden craftwork—Lord Krishna in Forest depicting the seven year old god playing his flute.

While the base price for a wooden masterpiece by Kamlesh Jangid, a nationally renowned artist hailing from Rajasthan is ₹4.10 lakh, the starting price of mural painting has been kept at ₹3.02 lakh. The minimum bid amount for gold peacock is ₹2.43 lakh and for Bajaj's work is ₹1.59



An exhibition of gifts presented to Narendra Modi at National Gallery of Modern Art

Unsold mementos of last year's auction available

Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi said that a total 912 articles are part of this year's auction including idols, paintings, replica of iconic structures of the country and sports gears and jerseys of athletes. Some of the unsold mementos of last year's auction are also available for grab.

lakh. The starting bid price for depiction of Lord Krishna is ₹1.29 lakh. It was crafted by Smita Thapar and Moksh Thapar, founders of Studio Smita Moksh. The piece was presented to the PM by the chairman and managing direc-

tor of Reliance Industries Limited Mukesh Ambani and his wife Nita Ambani. It has leaf patterned wooden borders and a Sanskrit shloka at the back.

Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi made an announcement about the

auction portal-- <https://pm-mementos.gov.in>-- going live on Monday.

Lekhi informed that a total 912 articles are part of this year's auction including idols, paintings, replica of iconic structures of the country and sports gears and jerseys of athletes. Some of the unsold mementos of last year's auction are also available for grab.

"All these articles were gifted to the PM by different communities and institutions during his visits to different parts of the country. It showcases India's rich tradition and tells us about the arts and culture of our country," said Lekhi.

The auction was first held in 2019. So far, nearly 7,000 objects have been auctioned. According to the ministry the bidding has fetched about ₹33,00,00,000 crore. Lekhi said that the entire amount collected through the sale of articles, will go to Namami Gange Programme.

The project to clean and preserve Ganga River was launched in 2014. About 150 articles are displayed at National Gallery of Modern Art.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

■ PM unveils mega plans for MP's Gwalior-Chambal belt, calls for change in Raj ■ C'garh Cong seeks to reinforce people's trust in party

Oppn anti-development, seeped in corruption: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal/Jaipur



PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called the opposition as Vikas Virodhi (anti-development), saying in nine years of his government, the country jumped from the tenth largest economy of the world to the fifth biggest economy.

Addressing a rally in assembly poll-bound Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, the PM said: "In the next five years, the country will become the third most powerful economy in the world. Those who were given six decades in power by the country could have easily done what we've done in just nine years."

He accused the Opposition of playing with the emotions of the poor. "They were seeped in corruption in the past and have grown more corrupt now," Modi said without naming any political party. The PM's visit was his eighth to poll-bound Madhya Pradesh in six months.

After unveiling and laying the foundation of development projects worth over Rs 19,260 crore, the PM said, "The unveiling of so many projects in a single day is more than what any other government does in one year. This is possible due to the double-engine government's joint efforts," he said.

The PM focused on the Gwalior-Chambal region (which was BJP's weakest point in the 2018 polls, as the party won 7 out of 34 seats

party could win only 7 out of the 34 seats of that region. "During the rule of the anti-development forces, only atrocities and injustice grew in Gwalior-Chambal. But the same region during our governments has turned into a land of new opportunities, which has been exhibited aptly by the development initiatives started today."

In Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, where polls are also due later this year, the PM said Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot conceded his defeat. He took a dig at the CM for his statements last week where he had asked the PM to give a guarantee that schemes of his government would not be discontinued.

In response to the statement at Jaipur rally PM Modi had claimed that Modi means a "guarantee of fulfilment of all promises." Modi addressed various pressing issues, including corruption, deteriorating law and order, youth concerns, and women's security."

Cong launches fresh yatra across 90 constituencies

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

Congress' Bharosa Yatra is symbolic representation of the people's sentiments. Today people have placed their trust on Congress rule because the party has fulfilled their aspirations

Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister

BJP chides campaign

The BJP took a dig at the proposed programme of the Congress. "The Congress is shaken by the response the BJP got in its parivartan yatra. So they are forced to take out such yatra, Arun Sao, BJP state president said.

THE ruling Congress party in Chhattisgarh on Monday launched a day-long 'Bharose Ki Yatra' (journey of trust) in all 90 constituencies of the state to showcase the performance and accomplishments of the Bhupesh Baghel government ahead of the Assembly polls.

The day-long event, which is seen as a continuation of the public meetings in recent weeks as "Bharose Ka Samelan" by the Congress government organised in some of the districts.

"Bharose Ki Yatra" of the Congress is a mass-contact programme to gain the confidence of the people in the election year. Besides the CM, the state ministers, MLAs, party leaders, cadres and office bearers actively participated during the course of the yatra in their respective constituencies on Gandhi Jayanti.

"The party interacted and disseminated among the masses the good governance and the achievements of the Congress government during the last 56 months besides the "failures" of the Modi-led Centre", said a senior Congress leader. The yatra were taken out on motor-bikes by the party leaders in every constituency. Some also took out a foot-march along with their supporters.

"Congress' Bharosa Yatra is symbolic representation of the people's senti-



ments. Today people have placed their trust on Congress rule because the party has fulfilled their aspirations," said the CM Bhupesh Baghel, who led the motor cycle yatra at his Patan constituency.

The BJP took a dig at the proposed programme of the Congress. "The Congress party is shaken by the response the BJP got in its parivartan yatra from the people. So they are forced to take out such yatra", said Arun Sao, BJP state president.

The opposition BJP has launched two 'parivartan yatra' and both culminated at Bilaspur where PM Narendra Modi attended the occasion on September 30.

"BJP shouldn't be worried about us. They neither have leaders nor policy but only engage in jumlebaazi to misguide people", stated Selja, who hinted that Congress will give more tickets to women in the polls.

'8th visit in 6 months'

The PM's visit was his eighth to poll-bound Madhya Pradesh in six months. The PM focused on the Gwalior-Chambal region (which was BJP's weakest point in the 2018 polls, as the party won 7 out of 34 seats

6 killed in UP as land dispute turns bloody

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

A property dispute resulted in a bloodbath in which half-a-dozen people, including five of a family, were killed in Fatehpur village of Rudrapur police station area in the eastern UP district of Deoria on Monday. The incident took place in the Lehda Tola locality, said the police sources.

As per Special DG, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar, former district panchayat member Prem Yadav, 50, visited Satyaprakash Dubey, 54, for some deliberations over a piece of land. The discussions turned sour and Yadav was attacked with sharp edged weapons and killed by Dubey and his family on the spot.

After a few hours, Yadav's supporters from Abhaipur arrived in huge number at Dubey's house and retaliated by attacking the family. Yadav's supporters, carrying weapons, brutally killed Dubey and five of his family, including children. Besides Dubey, the attackers killed his wife Kiran Dubey, 52, daughters Saloni, 18, and Nandani, 10, and son Gandhi, 15. Moreover, Dubey's other son Anmol, 8, was injured in the attack and was referred to hospital. Others were declared brought dead.

In Gujarat, poverty on rise, count of families using BPL cards goes up

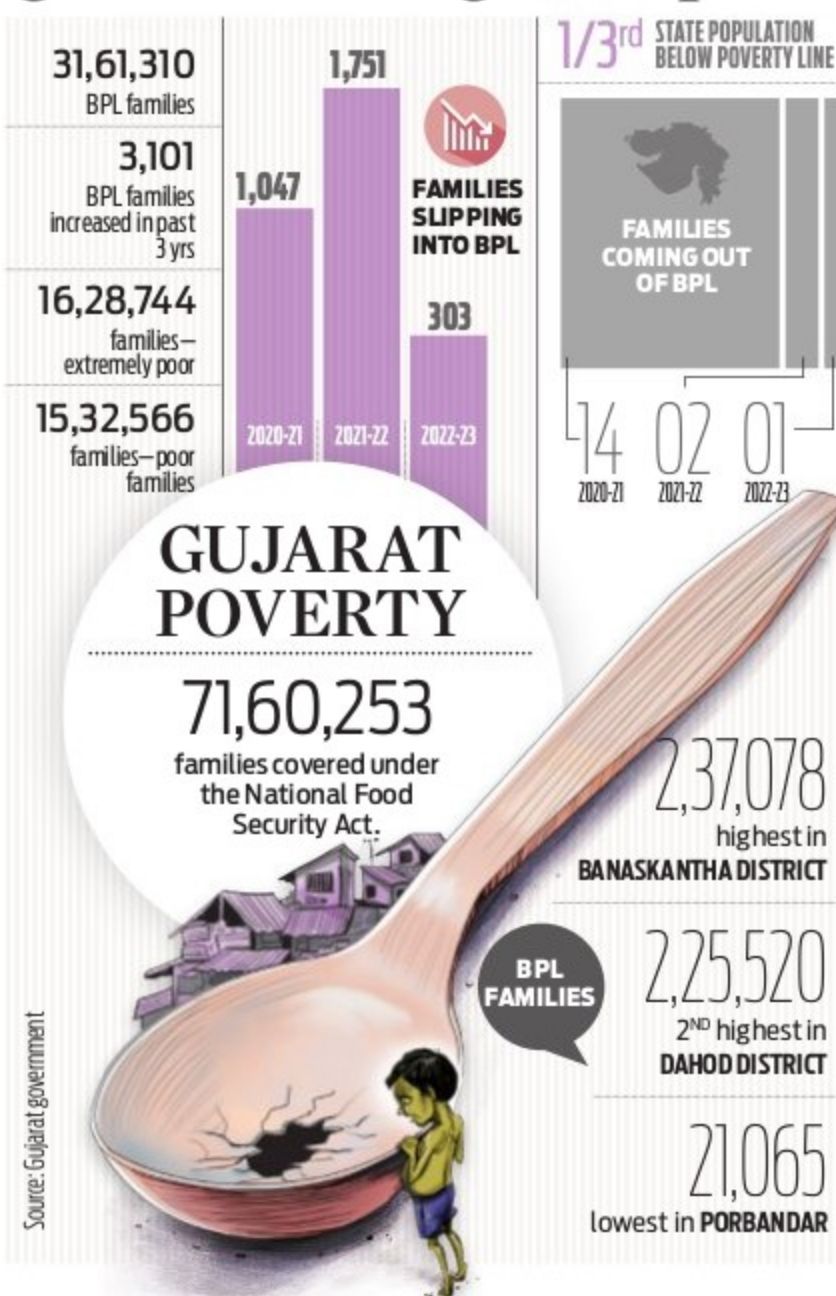
DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

ONE-third of Gujarat's population or over 31 lakh families are living Below Poverty Line (BPL). The poverty line is estimated at ₹816 per capita per month for rural areas and ₹1,000 for urban areas or ₹32 per day for rural and ₹26 for urban.

On September 14, replying to a question from Congress MLA Tushar Chaudhary, State Minister for Rural Development Bachubhai Maganbhai Khabad informed 31,61,310 BPL families have been identified in Gujarat. Of these, 16,28,744 families fall under the extremely poor category while 15,32,566 in poor.

Moreover, in 2020-21, as many as 1,047 families slipped into the BPL category while just 14 came out of it. The figure for 2021-22, new BPL families was 1,751 while two moved away from the category. In 2022-23, the rise in BPL category families was 303 while the decrease was only one.

Hemant Kumar Shah, an economist based in Ahmedabad, says, "If we consider 31.64 lakh poor families with an average of six members per family, then the number of BPL population is 1 crore 89 lakhs, implying one-third of population is below the poverty line."



Migrant couple held for killing 3 minor daughters in Punjab's Jalandhar

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THREE sisters were found dead inside a trunk in their house in Kanpur village of Jalandhar district, police said on Monday. Poverty is said to be the reason for the migrant couple to murder their three minor daughters aged four, seven and nine years.

The couple allegedly mixed pesticide in the milk meant for the children and dumped their bodies into a trunk in the house. The three girls were reported missing Sunday night at Maqasudan police station by their parents when they did not find them home after returning from work, said a police officer.

The family had five children, police said. The sisters were identified as Kanchan, 4, Shakti, 7, and Amrita, 9. All three bodies were sent for post-mortem to ascertain the cause of the death, the officer said.

The police said the matter unraveled when the father of the girls was shifting household items on Monday and found the trunk heavier than usual. When he opened the trunk, he found his three daughters inside, police said. According to police, the father

of the girls had recently received an ultimatum from his landlord to vacate the house.

Sushil Mandal along with his wife Manju Mandal, both daily wagers, had migrated from Bihar. During questioning, the parents admitted to have killed their daughters as they could not afford to feed them. Earlier Mandal allegedly claimed that the girls got locked inside the trunk, leading to death due to suffocation.

A case was registered against the couple on charges of murder and tampering with evidence. Senior Superintendent of Police of Jalandhar (Rural) Mukhwinder Singh Bhullar said: "The parents informed the police on Sunday night that their daughters, who were playing in the street, had not returned home and were missing. We got a call on 112, our helpline number, from their landlord about the missing kids."

The police found gaps in the statement of the parents. The police scanned the CCTV footage of the area and found that the victims did not come out of their house. A search of the house led to the recovery of bodies in the trunk, he said.

Manipur: Kuki-Zo organisations demand release of arrested tribals in 48 hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

KUKI-Zo organisations in strife-torn Manipur registered a protest on Monday against the arrest of five tribals by central agencies and demanded their release within 48 hours.

Normal life came to a grinding halt in the Kuki-majority hill district of Churachandpur during an indefinite shutdown which was called by some tribal organisations. All shops and business establishments remained shut while vehicles were off the road.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had arrested four tribals, including two women, from Henglep in Churachandpur on Monday by intercepting a Bolero. The arrests were made in connection with the abduction and killing of two Meitei students.

Two minor girls – daughters of one of the arrested women travelling in the vehicle – were also taken into custody. After the six persons were flown out of Manipur to Guwahati in Assam by the evening, the two

Ultimatum to ministry

The organisation served an "ultimatum" on the home ministry to direct the central agencies to release the arrested persons within 48 hours, initiate probe against "Meitei criminals" and convict them for "natural justice" The CoTU condemned the CBI and the NIA for their alleged attempt to bring "one-sided" justice

children were handed over to District Child Protection Officer, Kamrup Metro district in Guwahati for their care. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had also arrested another tribal in a case related to a transnational conspiracy by insurgent groups based in Myanmar and Bangladesh to wage a war against India by exploiting the unrest in Manipur.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) condemned the "selective

haste" of the central agencies in arresting the persons.

"If the CBI can act with such swiftness, why has it not arrested anyone in more heinous cases, like the rape and murder of two tribal girls in Imphal, burning of a 7-year-old tribal boy along with his mother and aunt, torture and beheading of a tribal youth, and so many other acts of atrocities against tribals?" the ITLF asked.

The CoTU condemned the CBI and the NIA for their alleged attempt to bring "one-sided" justice. The tribal organisation said it was "compelled to impose an emergency shutdown" on National Highway 37 – the lifeline of Manipur – till the authorities expedite the safe release of one of the "abducted" persons "Sathang Kipgen".

Further, the organisation served an "ultimatum" on the home ministry to direct the central agencies to release the arrested persons within 48 hours, initiate probe against "Meitei criminals" and convict them for "natural justice".

Land allotment letters given to J&K beneficiaries

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

DESPITE hue and cry from political parties, Lt Governor administration in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday started the process of handing over land allotment orders to the landless people of Jammu and Kashmir for house construction under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY-G) scheme.

The land allotment orders were handed over to 245 landless families under PMAY-G scheme by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar today. Sinha said it is a matter of happiness for him that he is handing over land allotment orders of 5 marlas land to some beneficiaries who are landless but eligible for housing under PMAY.

Rejecting opposition notion that this scheme might be used to alter the demography of J&K, he asked the grassroots-level representatives to keep an eye on the list of beneficiaries in their respective areas.

CM to sign MoU for Shivaji weapon as it returns to Maha from London

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN a bid to bring the iconic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's tiger claw – Waghnaakh in India, Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar is set to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Brittan's Victoria and Albert Museum on October 3 in London.

Maharashtra cultural affair minister Sudhir Mungantiwar is in London for his three-day tour. He said, on the 350th coronation year of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, they are very proud to go to London to sign an agreement to bring the tiger claw – Vaghankhe to Chhatrapati Shivaji lovers to India.

"Our government is working to bring the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj day's where everyone will live happily without any trouble and woes. We are committed to the welfare state. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a revered figure and adored like a god. He is our inspiration and we follow his ideology. We are working under



the leadership of PM Narendra Modi at the Center and CM Eknath Shinde to bring to Shivaji Maharaj's desire rule," minister said adding the story of Shivaji's triumph over Afzal Khan is legendary, so we are delighted that the 'Tiger Claws' will return to India as part of the 350th anniversary events where they can be enjoyed as part of the celebrations.

Maharashtra initiated on April 15 of this year correspondence with the Victoria & Albert Museum in a meeting with British Deputy High Commissioner for Western India, Alan Gammell, along with Mrs. Imogen Stone, Deputy Head of

Political and Bilateral Relations of Britain, in Mumbai. Victoria and Albert Museum has agreed to give it to the state for three years. Once it is brought back, the bagh nakh is set to be displayed at the Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum in Satara, Central Museum in Nagpur, Kolhapur and Mumbai.

In this meeting, the decision was taken to bring back the tiger claw that was used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill the Sultan of Vijapur, Afzal Khan at Pratap Fort.

According to reports, the claws then came into the possession of James Grant Duff, an officer of the East India Company and were then gifted to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Opposition parties alleged that BJP is using Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's tiger claw to do politics ahead of the key elections in 2024.

Aditya Thackeray, Shiv Sena leader also questioned the tiger claw that belongs to Chhatrapati Shivaji or his medieval (Shiv) period.



MUMBAI
DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI

Our correspondent
in Maharashtra

suryawanshi.sudhir@gmail.com

No takers for sugar mill of Pankaja Munde

EBJP national secretary Pankaja Munde is in the news. Recently, she received a notice from the Goods and Services Department (GST) in connection with the Vaidyanath sugar mill, operated by her. The sugar mill was approved by the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his first stint as prime minister for 13 days to Pankaja's father, late Gopinath Munde, who was considered a "heavyweight" then in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. After 28 years, the mill is on the verge of closure due to droughts affecting sugarcane farming, piling debt and rising input costs. Pankaja has approached the state and centre.



Uddhav may test waters in south-central LS seat

In state political circles, there is buzz that Shiv Sena (UBT) chief and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, to find a place in national leadership, may throw his hat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Mumbai's south-central Lok Sabha constituency. According to sources, his party has conducted multiple surveys in the constituency to check Thackeray's rating and popularity. This constituency has been represented by former Lok Sabha speaker and senior Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi. As Marathi and Dalit voters dominate the constituency, Thackeray got a "green signal".

Fight for funds in Maharashtra Congress

As Lok Sabha elections are approaching, according to sources, Maharashtra Congress is seeking mobilisation of funds for poll preparations. However, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's firm decision to keep Nana Patole, a strong OBC leader, at the state Congress president's post, has raised doubts among some leaders. According to them, Patole has a good command on the ground and in connecting with the masses but not in the corporate lobby. On the other hand, the BJP and its alliance partners have the resources and support of corporations. Though, Vidarba is on our side, what about funds? a senior leader questioned.



TWO

people died after being attacked by a grizzly bear in
a national park in western Canada

Beijing	28	B	SNY	Los Angeles	24	17	LC
Colombo	29	25	HR	Melbourne	27	11	HR
Dhaka	33	27	HR	Moscow	23	11	HR
Dubai	37	29	SNY	New York	18	16	HR
Houston	34	29	SNY	Paris	22	11	LC
Istanbul	26	18	HR	Singapore	31	26	SNY
London	19	9	LC	Toronto	20	16	LC

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain
TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

newindianexpress.com

NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE

Weissman's focus on
future coronaviruses

WASHINGTON

DREW Weissman's decades of research into mRNA technology paved the way for Covid-19 vaccines, finally earning a Nobel prize for the physician-scientist.

The 64-year-old University of Pennsylvania immunologist, who won the Nobel Medicine Prize along with long-time collaborator Katalin Kariko on Monday, is far from done. His next quests include, among others, developing a vaccine against all future coronaviruses.

"There have been three (coronavirus) pandemics or epidemics in the past 20 years," Weissman told AFP recently, referring to the original SARS virus, MERS and Covid-19. "You have to assume there's going to be more, and our idea was that we could wait for the next coronavirus epidemic or pandemic, and then spend a year and a half making a vaccine. Or we could make one now."

The world is now aware of the elegance of the mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccines, that deliver genetic instructions to cells telling them to recreate the spike protein of the coronavirus, in order to trigger effec-

tive antibodies when they encounter the real thing.

But back when Weissman teamed up with Kariko in the 1990s, the research was considered a scientific dead-end, and working with DNA was considered a more promising avenue.

In 2005, the pair found a way to alter synthetic RNA to stop it from causing a massive inflammatory response found in animal experiments.

"Just before our paper was published, I said 'Our phones are going to ring off the hook'," he recalls.

"We sat there staring at our phones for five years, and they never rang!"

With a second big breakthrough in 2015, they found a new way to deliver the particles safely and effectively to their target cells, using a fatty coating called "lipid nanoparticles." Both developments are part of the Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines.

Weissman grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts. "When I was five years old, I was diagnosed as a type-one diabetic, and back then it was testing urine and taking insulin shots a few times a day," he recalled, and this motivated him to pursue science.

AFP



Drew Weissman

My dream since starting college and medical school was to make something that helps the people. I think, I can say that I've done that

Obsession with mRNA
jabs cost Kariko her job

WASHINGTON

HUNGARIAN-born scientist Katalin Kariko's obsession with researching a substance called mRNA to fight disease once cost her a faculty position at a prestigious US university, which dismissed the idea as a dead end.

Kariko, 68, spent much of the 1990s writing grant applications to fund her research into "messenger ribonucleic acid" — genetic molecules that tell cells what proteins to make, essential to keeping our bodies alive and healthy.

She believed mRNA held the key to treating diseases where having more of the right kind of protein can help — like repairing the brain after a stroke.

But the University of Pennsylvania, where Kariko was on track for a professorship, decided to pull the plug after the grant rejections piled up.

"I was up for promotion, and then they just demoted me and expected that I would walk out the door," she told AFP in an interview in December 2020.

Kariko didn't yet have a green card and needed a job to renew her visa.



Katalin Kariko

They were always thinking... that woman with the accent, there must be somebody behind her who is smarter or something

She also knew she wouldn't be able to put her daughter through college without the hefty staff discount. She decided to persist as a lower-rung researcher, scraping by on a meagre salary.

It was a low point in her life and career, but "I just thought...you know, the (lab) bench is here, I just have to do better experiments," she said. By the late 1980s, much of the scientific community was focused on using DNA to deliver gene therapy, but Kariko believed that mRNA was also promising since most diseases are not hereditary and don't need solutions that permanently alter our genetics.

Though she does not want to make too much of it, as a foreign-born woman in a male-dominated field, Kariko occasionally felt underestimated — saying people would approach after lectures and ask "Who's your supervisor?"

Back then, her late mother would call every year after prize announcements to ask why she hadn't been chosen. "I never in my life get (federal) grants, I am nobody, not even faculty," she would reply.

AFP

EXPRESS READ

China's next lunar mission to carry Pakistan's payload

Beijing: China's next lunar mission scheduled for 2024 will also carry a payload from Pakistan, the country's space agency has said, as the two nation step up cooperation in space sector. The Chang'e-6 lunar mission is currently undergoing research and development work as planned, news agency Xinhua reported on Friday quoting China National Space Administration (CNSA). The Chang'e-6 mission, with the launch scheduled for around 2024, is tasked with bringing back samples from the far side of the moon. To date, all 10 lunar sampling missions conducted by humans have taken place on near side of the moon, The Global Times reported. The Chang'e-6 mission aims at landing South Pole-Aitken Basin on far side to collect lunar samples. PTI

Donald Trump's
biz empire under
threat as New York
fraud trial opens

Former US president Donald Trump sits in the courtroom at New York Supreme Court on Monday | AP

NEW YORK

A combative Donald Trump appeared in a New York court on Monday to face civil fraud charges, denouncing the case as a "sham" intended to torpedo his campaign to retake the White House.

The fraud trial, one of several legal battles against the 77-year-old Trump, could potentially see the former president barred from doing business in the state of New York.

"This has to do with election interference, plain and simple," Trump said as he arrived for the opening day of what could be a three-month trial.

New York Judge Arthur Engoron has already ruled that Trump and his sons Eric and Don Jr committed fraud by inflating the value of the real estate and financial assets of the Trump Organization for years.

New York Attorney General Letitia James is now seeking \$250 million in penalties and the removal of Trump and his sons from management of the family empire.

"Justice will prevail," James told reporters before delivering opening arguments.

"No matter how powerful you are, no matter how much money you think you may have, no one is above the law," she said.

Trump, arriving in court, denounced the case as a "scam" and a "witch hunt."

"It's a sham," he said. "My financial statements are phenomenal." Trump is scheduled to appear before a federal judge in Washington on March 4, 2024 on charges of trying to overthrow the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Trump will then be back in New York state court, this time on charges of paying hush money to a porn star, and later in a Florida federal court, where he is accused of mishandling classified documents after leaving office. Finally, he will also have to answer to state charges in Georgia, where prosecutors say Trump illegally tried to get the southern state's 2020 election results changed in his favor.

In the New York case, Engoron ruled that Trump, his two eldest sons and other Trump Organization executives lied to tax collectors, lenders and insurers for years in a scheme that exaggerated the value of their properties by \$812 million to \$2.2 billion between 2014 and 2021.

AFP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients have negotiated to purchase the property scheduled below, from its present owner Smt. Gangavathi S.R., W/o. Sri. Umesh R., R/At No. 18, 5th Cross, 1st Main Road, Kempegowda Nagar, Bydrahalli, Vishwanandam post, Bengaluru-560 091. We are investigating the title to the schedule property, on behalf of our clients.

Objections, to the proposed transaction of sale and/or claims, if any, relating to the schedule property, may be lodged with the undersigned in writing, with the supporting documents, within ten (10) days, from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which, our clients will proceed to conclude the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the residential premises bearing site No. 74, Khanesumari No. 74 & 75, Gramatana khata No. 21, carved out of the land bearing Sy. No. 10/1, situated at Hosahalli Gollapalya, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, now within the limits of BBMP ward No. 40 (Doddabailkal) and bounded as follows: East by : Site bearing No. 155 West by : Site bearing No. 176 North by : Road South by : Site bearing No. 146 Measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 40 feet totally measuring 1200 sq.ft., along with the small residential building thereon.

K.B. SHASHIDHARA

H.T. RANGE GOWDA, Advocates
No. 19, 2nd floor, 9th cross,
Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002.
Place: Bengaluru Date: 02.10.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client Smt. Roopa Surendranath, Wife of Sri. R. Surendranath, Aged about 72 years, residing at No.15, Golden Orchids Apartment, 10/8, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru-560001, AADHAAR: 6090 3460 7489, being the owner of the schedule property, has lost the Original Sale Deed dated 14-07-2004 Executed by Sri. R. Surendranath and others as Seller, M/s. Brigade Enterprises Pvt. Ltd as Confirming Party in favour of Roopa Surendranath and Sri. Vikram Surendranath and registered as Document No. 14662/2004-05, Book I and stored in CD No. 115 and registered in the Office of Senior Sub Registrar, Kengeri, Bengaluru;

In the said circumstances, Smt. Roopa Surendranath, has filed Lost Article Report on 18-09-2023 vide Lost Report No. 0737478/2023, with the Crime Branch Bengaluru City Police. Public are informed that the finder/s of the above document, are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned and they will be suitably rewarded. General Public are also warned to not enter into any transactions based on the above missing documents and any such transactions will not be binding on the owner;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential Apartment bearing Municipal No. 310/1218/816/265/2F-B-202 (privately numbered as 202) in Second Floor of Block "B" of Magnolia, constructed on Land in Sy No. 44.45 and 51/1, situated at Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, together with 137.5/10013th i.e. 755.91 Sq.ft., of undivided right, title, share and interest in the Composite property, having super built up area of 2750 Sq.ft., together with one top covered vehicle car parking space for two cars in the Basement Floor and bounded on the:

East by : Open Space in "MAGNOLIA";
West by : Open Space in "MAGNOLIA";
North by : Open Space in "MAGNOLIA";
South by : Corridor in "MAGNOLIA";

N S RACHANA

N C JANARDHAN, Advocates

Rachana Law Associates

"Lakshmidheep", 1 Floor, No. 2980, 17th

Cross, Baneshankar II Stage,

BANGALORE-560 070 PH : 931610810

Date : 01-10-2023

QuoteExpress

NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN

KIRANRAJ GOWDER

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client Smt. Nandu Rajeshwari W/o Sri P Ram Rao, R/At No. 307/14, 9th Main, 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 41 intends to purchase the Schedule Property from Smt. Sarala Rangakrishna and her children R/At No. 175, Corcorde Nepea Valley, Thorasu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore - 82, who represents that they are the sole and absolute owners in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property and that the Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances whatsoever and that there are no third party claims or rights on the Schedule Property.

Any person/s having any claim/s over the Schedule Property or having any objection/s about the above mentioned transaction may write to the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice along with documentary evidence, on which they are basing their claim, failing which my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s, objection/s of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential property bearing No. 5, (sites formed in Sy. No. 63/1, 76/2 & 80/1) situated at Vyasa Bank Colony, J.P. Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore-78, Layout formed and Developed by Vyasa Bank Employees House Building Co-operative Society Limited, Bangalore, measuring East to West 60-0 ft and North to South: 40-0 ft and totally measuring 2400 Sqft along with building, presently coming within the jurisdiction of BBMP ward No. 179, Bangalore, together with all appurtenances whether situated on, below or above the surface, and bounded on:

East by : Property No. 30
West by : 30 ft Road
North by : Property No. 4
South by : Property No. 6

M. MUNEGOWDA

Advocate and Consultant

No. 64/1, S.M. Plaza, 2nd Floor,

Dr. D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi,

Bangalore -04 : 934287205;

Bangalore Dated: 03/10/2023

RBI likely to maintain status quo

For the fourth consecutive time, the apex bank might keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%

SUNITHA NATTI

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the fourth consecutive time this week.

In its bi-monthly policy review during October 4-6, the 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is also unlikely to change the policy stance from withdrawal of accommodation factoring the domestic and external economic challenges. With global crude oil prices on the rise, yet again, markets aren't ruling out a 25 bps rate hike taking the key policy rate to 6.75%. The last time RBI raised the repo rate in the ongoing monetary tightening cycle was in February.

In its previous policy review, the central bank had revised its FY24 inflation projections upward to 5.4% from 5.1%. Soaring vegetable prices pushed headline inflation higher to 7.44% in June, breaching RBI's upper tolerance band of 6%, prompting the MPC to revise its inflation estimates.

And even though retail inflation moderated to 6.83% in August, the central bank is unwilling to drop its guard given the rise in global crude oil prices,



which shot past the RBI's estimated average price of \$85 per barrel for FY24.

Vegetable prices have softened and average food inflation will likely moderate from 6.9% in Q2 to 5.6% in Q3 and 5.1% in Q4 FY24, according to Care Ratings. But the likelihood of uneven monsoon affecting kharif crops and thereby food prices appears higher and needs to be factored in.

"We expect the CPI inflation to ease to 5.6% in Q3 FY2024 and further to 5.1% in Q4 FY2024, amid upside risks to

food inflation on account of the impact of uneven and sub-par monsoons and low reservoir levels on Kharif yields and Rabi sowing, respectively," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA Ltd, said.

Such uncertainties have a significant bearing on inflation expectations. Another key factor that policymakers have to keep a close watch on is the recurring food prices. As RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted last month, the frequent incidences of recurring food price shocks are a risk to an-

Keep an eye on recurring food prices

Another key factor that policymakers have to keep a close watch on is the recurring food prices. As RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted last month, the frequent incidences of recurring food price shocks are a risk to anchoring inflation expectations. Vegetable prices have softened and average food inflation will likely moderate from 6.9% in Q2 to 5.6% in Q3 and 5.1% in Q4 FY24.

choring inflation expectations.

The MPC may also continue to flag the need to persist as the transmission of the previous rate hikes totaling 250 bps remains incomplete. "The fact that growth shows no signs of losing momentum will probably make the MPC consider whether monetary conditions really are impinging on growth and put aside talk of an exit from the current monetary policy settings," said Rahul Bajoria, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics, Barclays in a note.

Over 3 mn audit reports filed on I-T's portal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TAXPAYERS and tax professionals have filed more than 30 lakh audit reports for the assessment year 2023-24 on the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department, as of September 30, 2023, the tax department said on Monday.

"The income tax department appreciates taxpayers and tax professionals for making compliances in time with respect to filing of Tax Audit Reports (TARs) and other audit reports in Form No 29B, 29C, 10CCB, etc.," the release said.

To assist taxpayers, extensive outreach programs were conducted, reaching out to approximately 55.4 lakh individuals through emails, SMSs, social media, and informative messages on the Income Tax portal. User awareness videos were also made available to provide guidance on filing the necessary audit forms within the deadline.

According to the statement, during September 2023, the e-filing Helpdesk team handled roughly 2.36 lakh queries from taxpayers, providing support and assistance for any complexities encountered.

Future's lenders reject ₹550-cr offer of Space Mantra

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FUTURE Retail stares at liquidation after the committee of creditors (CoC) has rejected the only resolution plan submitted by Space Mantra.

In an exchange filing, the erstwhile Kishore Biyani-promoted company said: "The resolution plan submitted by Space Mantra Private Limited was put to vote for the consideration of the CoC on 19 July 2023 in terms of Section 30(4) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and pursuant to the decision taken by CoC through e-voting, concluded on 30th September 2023 at 9 PM (IST), the resolution plan submitted by Space Mantra Private Limited has not been approved by CoC."

It further said that since the resolution plan has not been approved by the CoC, the next steps would be taken in accordance with the Insolvency &

Bankruptcy Code 2016.

Under IBC, if no resolution plan is approved by the CoC, the next step is to liquidate the insolvent company.

Space Mantra, which has been founded by former NBCC chairman and managing director Anoop Kumar Mittal, had offered to buyout the company for a sum of ₹550 crore against lenders' total admitted claims of ₹19,773 crore.

According to reports, resolution professional of Future Retail Vijaykumar V Iyer had suggested a rebidding process but the lenders rejected the proposal.

Insolvency proceedings against Future Retail began on 20 June 2022 after the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted the insolvency plea filed by Bank of India against the company.

BoI initiated the insolvency proceedings after Future Retail defaulted on a payment of ₹856 crore.



POWER SECTOR

CIL production up 11% in first half of FY24

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

COAL India Ltd (CIL) produced 333 million tonnes (MTs) of coal in the first half of the financial year, which is nearly 34 MTs, or 11.3%, higher compared to the same period last year.

Output in September 2023 was 51.4 MTs, a 5.8 MTs jump or a growth of 12.6%. CIL produced 45.7 MTs during the same month last year.

"We were given a supply target of 610 MTs to the power sector for the entire FY24. This is about 4% higher than the record level of 586.6 MTs that was supplied in FY23. We met the prorated demand of coal fired plants till September-end and expect to meet the annual demand as well," said a senior official of CIL.

CIL's supplies to the power sector rose to 294.8 million tonnes (MTs) ending the first half of FY24. The company said the supplies were 1.8 MTs more than the 293 MT demand projected for this period. Compared to a high base of last fiscal's same period, the volume increase was 9.7 MTs or a 3.4% growth. "This could have been even higher if the logistics were eased out and intake not regulated by few consumers," said the company in a press note. CIL's total supplies shot up to 360.7 MTs during H1 of FY24, 8.6% higher than 332 MTs a year ago.

Dunzo co-founder Dalvir Suri exits; start-up to undergo restructuring

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

RELIANCE-backed delivery firm Dunzo's co-founder Dalvir Suri has quit the start-up at a time when the firm is facing a liquidity crisis and struggling to raise funds. Dunzo is also planning to undergo an organisation-wide restructuring starting this quarter.

Dunzo CEO and Founder Kabir Biswas informed employees on Monday about Suri's exit. Suri has spent over six years in the start-up, and he was leading the start-up's B2B vertical Dunzo Merchant Services (DMS).

"Dalvir has been instrumental in building out every new line of business at Dunzo... Everyone who has ever been at Dunzo, has been touched by Dalvir's - Lets do it attitude. We will miss him at Dunzo," Biswas said.

He added that the company is making organisation-wide changes in restructuring its business starting this quarter, and the DMS business has very capable leadership that is picking up directly after Suri.

Ankur Agarwal and Mukund Jha are other co-founders who founded the start-up in 2014. The co-founder's exit also comes at a time when the hyperlocal delivery start-up is delaying salaries to its employees. In its third round of layoffs, in July, it fired about 200 employees. Earlier it was said that the



Google-backed start-up will clear all dues in September first week. But now, it said salaries will be disbursed in the first week of October.

Apologising for the delay in an email, the start-up had told employees, "Ensuring that you receive your due compensation as early as possible is our top priority. Please be assured that we are doing everything to make this happen, and we are confident that there will be no further delays after this."

It added in the mail that pending salaries for the months of June and July, due to be paid on September 4 will be paid in the first week of October and that employees will receive the salary dues along with a 12% interest.

TVS, Hero MotoCorp & Royal Enfield report growth in Sept sales

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the peak festive season, three of India's top two-wheeler brands, Hero MotoCorp, TVS Motor and Royal Enfield, reported decent growth in monthly dispatches for the month of September. Hero MotoCorp sold 536,499 units in the month of September 2023. The company registered a growth of more than 3% over the corresponding month of the previous fiscal when it sold 519,980 units in September 2022.

Hero's domestic sales surged to 519,789 units in September 2023 from 507,690 units in September 2022 while exports grew to 16,710 units last month from 12,290 units in the same month last year.

For the first six months of FY24, Hero's total sales stood at 27.69 lakh units, a drop from 28.18 lakh units sold in the same period last financial year.

"As the country enters the peak festive season in the coming weeks, Hero MotoCorp expects the demand to be on a healthy trajectory, led by macro-economic factors," said the company in a statement.

TVS Motor's total two-wheeler registered a growth of 7% with sales increasing from 361,729 units in September 2022 to 386,955 units in September 2023.

Domestic two-wheeler registered growth of 6% with sales



increasing from 283,878 units in September 2022 to 300,493 units in September 2023.

The company's electric 2W sales grew more than four times annually to 20,356 units in September 2023.

Its 2W exports registered a growth of 11% with sales increasing to 86,462 units in September 2023.

Royal Enfield recorded 1% growth in domestic sales to 74,261 units last month. The company's total sales, however, fell 4% to 78,580 motorcycles in September 2023 as its exports reduced by half to 4,319 units.

B Govindarajan, CEO, Royal Enfield said, "While the Bullet has received very strong response from consumers this month, we look forward to continued excitement through the upcoming festive season as

well. We are confident that our upcoming launches will boost our growth momentum even further."

Suzuki Motorcycle reported an overall sale of 97,936 units in September 2023, recording 13% growth as compared to September 2022.

The company sold 83,798 units domestically, which is a 16% growth over domestic sales of the same period last year. Meanwhile, the electric two-wheeler industry, after facing a severe setback due to subsidy reductions under the FAME scheme, showed signs of recovery last month.

Battery powered 2W sales grew 20% year-on-year in September 2023 to total 63,716 units, according to the government's Vahan database. Ola Electric maintained its leadership position in this segment and was followed by TVS Motor.

5G effect: India's internet speed up 3.59 times; ranking jumps

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IT has been one year since the roll-out of 5G in India, and the effect of it has started showing. Internet speed has significantly improved after the launch of 5G services in the country.

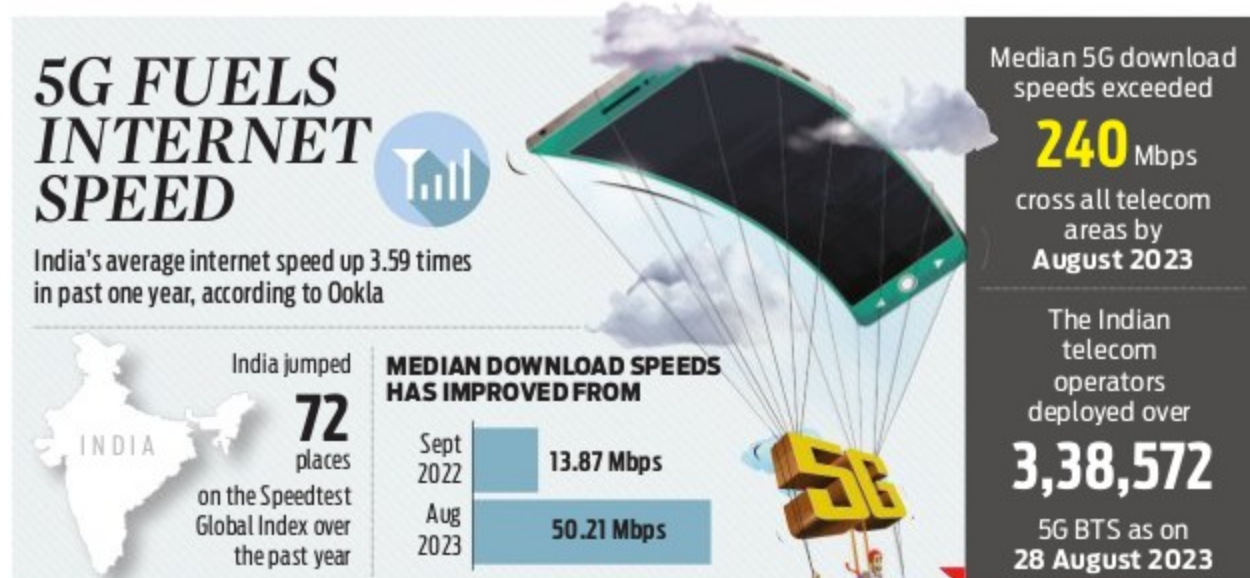
India has improved its ranking in internet speed significantly after the launch of 5G services in the country. In terms of internet speed ranking, India is much ahead of countries like the UK, Japan, Brazil or South Africa. According to the latest report by Ookla, India jumped 72 places on the Speedtest Global Index over the past year, with India's 5G launch largely responsible for boosting the country's ranking.

"After the introduction of 5G in the country, the speed performance has seen a 3.59 times increase, with median download speeds improving from 13.87 Mbps in September 2022 to 50.21 Mbps in August 2023. This improvement has led to India's rise in the Speedtest Global In-

dex, moving up 72 places, from 119th place to the 47th position," reads a study by Ookla.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally launched the 5G network in the country on 1 October 2022 at the India Mobile Congress event. According to Department of Telecommunication (DoT) data, as on 28 August 2023, the Indian telecom operators deployed over 3,38,572 5G BTS (Base transceiver station), covering almost the entire country. Three states - Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Bihar - account for 25% of all wireless subscribers in the country and also hold a 25% share of 5G BTS.

Initially, telecom operators Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel concentrated in major cities, but their coverage has expanded significantly, resulting in improved 5G performance across all telecom circles. India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio announced it had over 50 million 5G customers till June 2023. Bharti Airtel recently announced it has over 50 million unique 5G customers



on its network as on 30 September 2023. Jio targets to deploy nearly 1 million base stations by December 2023.

Before the launch of 5G in the country (October 2022), the median download speeds ranged from 512.57 Mbps in Gujarat to 19.23 Mbps in Uttar Pradesh West as the networks were under development. However, by August 2023, median 5G download speeds exceeded 240

Mbps across all telecom areas, with Kolkata leading the pack with a median download speed of 385.50 Mbps.

The report also noted that mobile users in India are among the most data-intensive consumers in the world, but 4G networks have been unable to keep up with consumer expectations. The reason being, network congestion caused by population density, lack of cellular infra-

structure, backhaul, as well as spectrum constraints.

"Following the 5G spectrum auction, operators have been able to address some of those issues and help offload 4G traffic onto 5G networks, thus reducing 4G network congestion. The strategy has proven successful already, as 25-35% of traffic is already getting offloaded on 5G from 4G," reads the report.

Crude oil imports from Russia rebounds in Sept

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S crude import from Russia rebounded in September 2023 as the country imported around 36% of its total crude need from Russia. According to London-based market intelligence provider Vortexa, India's total import of crude is 4.2 million barrels per day (mbd) in September out of which 1.58 mbd came from Russia. In August 2023, the country imported 1.44 million bpd from Russia.

"Lower Saudi Arabia crude supplies to India due to production cuts, more Russian Urals available with lower uptake from China's Shandong refiners resulted in higher imports from Russia," said Serena Huang, Vortexa's Head of APAC Analysis.

The data also noted that India's crude oil imports from Iraq also increased, reaching 926,000 barrels per day, marking a 14.6% year-on-year in-

crease and an 8.54% month-on-month rise. According to Vortexa, India's imports constitute 23% from Iraq, 13% from Saudi Arabia, 3% from Kuwait and 3% from the US.

Meanwhile, the experts are of the view that there is still scope for increase in imports of Russian crude. India, which imports 85% of its total oil, has increased crude import significantly from Russia. From less than 2% before the Ukraine and Russia war, Russia has become the top oil supplier to India in the past seven months. Indian refiners have snapped up discounted Russian oil after Western nations imposed sanctions and stopped buying from Russia.

"India imported 1.12mbd of Russian Urals crude in September, with the highest recorded being 1.58 mbd in July. India still can increase its imports of Russian Urals, the supply is the limiting factor currently," said Serena Huang.

EXPRESS READ

'India to clock GDP growth of 6.5 pc in FY24'

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy will grow at around 6.5% in the current fiscal as the country's macroeconomic situation is benefiting from the reforms that have been taken up in the last nine years by the Narendra Modi-led government, former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Monday. He further said that India needs and can grow at 8%-plus as that level of economic growth is required to meet aspirations of the country's young population and to generate sufficient jobs for its workforce. "My growth projection (of India's GDP growth in FY 2023-24) is 6.5%." "And I think we can easily maintain this (growth) over the next few years," he told PTI.

WhatsApp bans 74 lakh accounts in August

NEW DELHI, PTI: Meta-owned WhatsApp banned 74 lakh accounts in August, keeping in line with IT rules, according to the latest India monthly report by the messaging platform. Of these, 35 lakh accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users. The 'user-safety report' contains details of user complaints received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp, as well as WhatsApp's own preventive actions to combat abuse on the platform. "Between August 1 and August 31, a total of 74,07,48 WhatsApp accounts were banned. 3,506,905 of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users," it said. An Indian account is identified via a +91 phone number.

INDIAN SKATERS CLINCH TWO BRONZE
India's speed skaters dazzled with two surprise bronze medals in men's and women's 3000m team relay events to match their best-ever performance in roller sports at the continental showpiece.



It's a dream come true moment, I took to this sport at the age of seven and since then... My parents wanted me to play some sport and my mom was the one who was behind this. — Aarathy Kasturi Raj, India skater after winning bronze



VIJAY'S "Naa ready dha varava (I'm ready, are you ready for me?)" from the movie, Leo, will be playing in at least one room inside the Athletes Village on Monday night. When Ancy Sojan listens to it, she will hum as well as dance to the song. She has probably earned it. In near perfect track and field conditions, Ancy set a new personal best to win silver in the women's long jump.

Her mark of 6.63m was only bettered by China's Shiqi Xiong, whose 6.73m (also a personal best) led the rest of the field for half the competition. India's other hope in this discipline — Shaili Singh — was fifth with a best jump of 6.48m. As she made her way through the mixed zone and stopped half-heartedly to speak to the media, she broke down, clearly unhappy with her mark.

It was in sharp contrast to Ancy who just couldn't stop smiling. "Very happy with this performance," she said. "I'm sure I can do better. Already this season, I lost out on winning medals by close margins," the 22-year-old said. That's true. At the Asian Championships in Bangkok, an event where Shaili won silver, Ancy finished fourth. Her mark of 6.41m was 5cm below China's Zhong Jiawei's bronze-winning mark of 6.46cm.

That disappointment set Ancy back. "I was feeling very sad for a week. But after recovery, I told myself 'I can do this (medal).'" That recovery process also involved getting back into competition shape. "After ATF, I put on weight. I became 59kgs (now 55) because of menstrual problems. I corrected myself in three weeks. I reduced carbs, now I'm back in good shape. I will have ice cream now."

She had to course correct during the competition too. Her first jump of 6.13m (her worst legal jump of the night) was erratic because she felt she was uncontrollable before her take-off. "My first jump was a bit uncontrollable but with the experience I had at the ATF, I course-corrected. I figured out where I was going wrong. In my

MS Dhoni, Vijay songs and trusting the process: The long-jumper's secret to silver-medal effort

FLIGHT OF ANCY



Ancy Sojan in action; (inset) Parul Chaudhary (L) & Priti (R) secured silver & bronze in the women's 3000m steeplechase | AFP

fifth jump, I did my personal best. The board is very good, no problems," Ancy said. A reason why she was able to put behind that opening jump to create an impressive sequence of legal jumps post that (6.49m, 6.56, 6.30 and 6.63) is the trust she has in her process. "I was mentally very prepared. I just told myself whatever happens, I will stick to my process. If I'm a medallist, not a medallist (doesn't matter)... just trust the process and that is working. I'm very thankful for my mental conditioning coach (for this)."

While her mental conditioner belongs to Kerala, where Ancy is from, the latter also looks up to former India captain, MS Dhoni, for some guidance. "When you enter the competition, everyone is thinking and worried about the result. Result is... keep it aside. First you need to train and ensure whatever you train, give that in your competition. You just concentrate on what you can do. Dhoni always said 'control the controllables'. I just focused on a good run and a good take off.

I gave that and got a good performance. That is my process."

There is also a certain irony that her still fledgling athletics career has received a major boost in this city: Hangzhou was supposed to be Ancy's maiden international trip for a senior event in 2021. After breaking the national Under-21 record at the Khelo India Youth Games in Guwahati in January 2020, she was picked to represent the country in the Asian Indoor Championships to be held in Hangzhou. The pandemic put paid to those hopes. Three years later, it's a story of perseverance and process.

Sometime on Monday night, she will also video call her parents in Kerala. "They have supported me a lot," she said. While that's common, you can make the case for saying that her father, Sojan, is living his dream through his daughter. He wanted to become an athlete but financial constraints meant he had to give it up (he became a tuk-tuk driver in Thrissur).

Ancy, though, is just about

getting started.

NR for mixed 4x400 team

The quartet of Muhammed Ajmal, Vithya Ramraj, Rajesh Ramesh and Subha V broke the national record to win silver in the mixed 4x400m relay. They clocked 3:14.34 to finish behind Bahrain. India had initially finished behind Sri Lanka but the latter were disqualified because of a lane infringement.

"We came here to better our performances, the results will take care of itself," said Vithya, who ran the second leg for India. The 25-year-old, who equalled PT Usha's longstanding 400m hurdles record in the qualifiers on Monday morning, will have the chance to medal in the event on Tuesday.

In 3000m women's steeplechase, there was good news too. National record holder Parul Chaudhary, who was expected to win silver, finished second but what Priti did was something unexpected. She came from behind to pip Bahrain's runner to third. Silver and bronze is not bad at all.

MEDALS TALLY

TOP 6				
Team	G	S	B	T
China	47	81	42	270
Japan	33	44	45	122
Korea	31	39	63	133
India	13	24	23	60
Chinese Taipei	12	10	17	39
Uzbekistan	11	14	18	43

INDIA'S SELECT SCHEDULE

Archery: From 6:10 AM
Squash: From 8:30 AM
Badminton: From 8:10 AM
Cricket: M: India v Nepal, 6:30 PM
Hockey: W: India v Hong Kong, 10:15 AM
Canoe Sprint: W Kayak Single

India's medals on Monday

SILVER

Athletics

Women's 3000m Steeplechase: Parul Chaudhary
Women's long jump: Ancy Sojan

4x400m mixed relay team

BRONZE

Women's Speed Skating: 3000m Relay team

Men's Speed Skating: 3000m Relay team

Women's doubles table tennis: Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee

Women's 3000m Steeplechase: Priti

final 7:45 AM, M Canoe Double 1000m final; 8:20 AM, W Kayak Four 500m final 9:15 AM, W Canoe Double 200m 9:30 AM

Kabaddi: M: India v Bangladesh, 8:30 AM; W: India v South Korea, 1:30 PM

Athletics: W High Jump final, 4:30 PM; M Triple Jump final, 4:40 PM; W 400m hurdle final, 4:50 PM; M 400m Hurdles final, 5:05 PM; W 5000m final, 5:20 PM; W Javelin

throw final, 5:40 PM; M 800 m final, 5:55 PM

Boxing: Preeti v Chang Yuan (CHN) W 54kg semifinal, 11:30 AM; Lovlina Borgohain v Baisan Manikon (THA), W 75kg semifinal, 12 PM; Sachin v Ping Lyu (CHA), M 57kg quarterfinal, 5:15 PM; Narender v Kamshybek Kunkabayev (UZB), M +92kg semifinal, 6:30 PM

Live on Sony Sports Network

Unshakeable bond behind Ayhika & Sutirtha's bronze

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Hangzhou

NO Jedi mind trick is happening at the GSP Gymnasium on Monday afternoon. The Indian women's table tennis team of Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee are really two games away from the final. No Indian table tennis player, pair or team have managed to win two games in the semifinals ever. This is already uncharted territory (A Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra managed one game in 2018).

But the childhood friends, who went to the same TT club when they were still learning multiplication tables in school, are wondering what the fuss is all about. A partisan crowd — Indian players have not felt the love from the hosts in Hangzhou — are cheering for the North Korean duo of Suyong Cha and Sugyong Pak. A service error is celebrated. At another point, a joke in the local language elicits lots of laughter. The crowd wants the North Koreans to win and do not pretend otherwise.

But the World No 16 aren't just leading 11-7, 8-11, 11-7. They are not facing too many problems. Fresh from dumping China's Meng Chen and Yidi Wang, World No 2 and one of the favourites for gold, in front of their own crowd, they are on course to repeat the magic. The magic has given India only their third medal in the sport at the Asian Games but there is an opportunity to upgrade bronze to silver.

North Korea win the next two games. Trailing the match for the first time courtesy a few winners from the opposition, the Indians are now under pressure to respond under demand. That's when Sutirtha goes back to her trusted attacking backhand shots. After two of them find the sweet spot, they take the lead 3-1. They build on that lead



Ayhika Mukherjee (L) and Sutirtha Mukherjee in action on Monday | PTI

to win the sixth game 11-5. Decider.

After blocking a tad too much in the first five games, the Indian duo had decided to finish the points if and when an opportunity presented itself. It worked in the sixth. In the seventh, they were on the receiving end; they were too loose and conceded a big lead. 1-7. The conviction in their game plan had deserted them and they were going for too many Hollywood winners or ill-judged passing shots. But at a multi-discipline event like the Asian Games, not all bronze medals — or gold — are equal. In a sport like table tennis, coming third in Asia is no mean feat. So, how did they medal? Welcome to the mystical world of rubbers, an unshakeable bond that exists for over 20 years and a partnership that has the potential to perplex the best.

Coach Mamata Prabhu, who was on the Indian bench, explains. "Both of them come from the same place, Naihati," she says. "So the friendship goes back 20 years. They know each other so well. That's where the bonding is really strong. Regarding the partnership, this year they won the WTT contender,

only the second Indian women's team to do it. After that, we were confident that these girls have a particular game. They have different rubbers — Sutirtha has pimped rubber on her forehand and plain on the backhand. Ayhika has pimped on the forehand and anti (spin) on the backhand. It's quite a difficult combination with four different rubbers for opponents. That's what makes the opponents... they can have so many variations, you cannot judge."

This plan may be simple but to watch it pan out in real time was fascinating. Sutirtha took the role of the aggressor but it worked only because Ayhika's blocking game was highly effective. Even the way they blocked was frustrating the North Koreans who are perhaps used to playing with more pace. Even the way the ball behaved off the sheer black table was a lesson in the traits of different rubbers. For an example, one seemingly innocuous North Korean push spat off the sheer table as if it was an Indian Day Three pitch. On another occasion, Sutirtha got the ball spin as well as grip.

The pair explained how they use it to their advantage. "When I attack, she defends with her rubber well so that was our strategy," Sutirtha said. "She uses an anti-spin rubber which is tougher to use because it's different from normal rubbers. I use a backhand plain rubber. On the forehand, I use the Dr. Neubauer Gorilla killer pimped rubber."

"It feels surreal to win this medal but it could have been better but we are happy with what we have and will look to change the colour next time."

While Mamata conceded that her wards were a bit too passive in the opening games on Monday, she said the next challenge for them would be to add more weapons to their kitty.

Swapna myself losing bronze medal

Swapna Barman on Monday sparked a controversy with sensational allegations that she lost out on a bronze medal in the women's heptathlon competition to a "transgender" athlete. Swapna alleged that compatriot Nandini Agasara was ineligible to compete in the women's event as she is a "transgender" but later deleted her post from social media.

Srikanth, Sat-Chi enter second round

India's Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the men's singles second round with a 21-10, 21-10 win over Vietnam's Phat Le Duc in the badminton competition. Srikanth will face Korea's Lee Yun Gyu next. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also sailed into the men's doubles pre-quarterfinals with a 21-11, 21-16 win over Hong Kong's Chow Hin Long and Lui Chun Wai.

Ghosal progresses, Joshna shocked

Star Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa made a shock exit from the women's singles event. Chinappa lost 1-3 to lower-ranked Heo Mingyeong of South Korea in the pre-quarterfinals. The 37-year-old went down 4-11, 12-10, 9-11, 8-11 to the South Korean, ranked 158th, in the Round of 16. Sourav Ghosal blanked Kuwait's Ammar Altamimi 3-0 in the Round of 16.

Vithya equals Usha's nat'l record

India's Tejaswin Shankar produced a season best effort in shot put to be placed fifth in the overall standings with two events left in men's decathlon on Monday. Meanwhile, Vithya Ramraj equalled PT Usha's 400m hurdle national record, which was set in 1984, with a personal best effort of 55.42s to top her heat and directly qualify for the women's final.

Real test, United seek Euro balm

Heavyweights face a tricky away challenge against Napoli in the Champions League on Wednesday. Struggling Man United welcome Galatasaray at Old Trafford...

NAPOLI VS REAL MADRID [12:30 AM]

After a wobble in the derby against Atletico, Real got back on track on Sunday with a 3-0 win on Sunday and will arrive in Italy as leaders in La Liga. Jude Bellingham, playing in the No 10 role, has been exceptional since his arrival and he'll be hoping to inspire the team. However, Napoli will be an acid test for Real with striker Victor Osimhen in excellent form. This fixture promises a fascinating contest.

7 Jude Bellingham has seven goals and two assists this season across all competitions.

MAN UNITED VS GALATASARAY [12:30 AM]

United head into Tuesday's match desperately needing a win following a 4-3 defeat by Bayern Munich in their Champions League opener and Saturday's 1-0 loss to Crystal Palace. United manager Erik ten Hag said Antony, who is currently facing allegations of abuse, could return. After last year's high (30 goals), Marcus Rashford has struggled so far this season and he'll be looking to make an impact.

1 Marcus Rashford has scored just once this season.

Wednesday's other fixtures (12:30 am unless specified): Union Berlin vs Braga | 10:15 pm; RB Salzburg vs Real Sociedad | 10:15 pm; Copenhagen vs Bayern; Inter vs Benfica; Lens vs Arsenal.

Live on Sony Sports Network



STRENGTHS: Cometh the ICC event, Cometh the Aussies? With their recent win in the World Test Championship, Australia now hold 7 ICC trophies, including five ODI WCs. Despite losing back-to-back ODI series against South Africa & India, David Warner and Mitchell Marsh are in good form. Cameron Green and Glenn Maxwell have experience playing in India. Mitchell Starc, the highest wicket-taker in 2015 & 2019, has had a few games under his belt.

DRAWBACKS: In Adam Zampa, Australia have only one specialist spinner. With the withdrawal of Ashton Agar due to a fractured hand means Australia would have to rely on their part-time spinners. Steven Smith's fluctuating form could be another concern for the side as he was one of the performers of the tournament for them in 2015. On slower tracks, Smith, and the newest inclusion Marcus Labuschagne, in the middle-order might prove counterproductive.



ODI RECORD IN 2019-23 CYCLE

AUSTRALIA	PAKISTAN	BANGLADESH
P 44	36	P 53
W 24	24	W 29
L 20	10	L 21
T/NR 0/0	1/1	N/R 3
W/L 1.200	2.4	W/L 1.38

STRENGTHS: Their innate ability to punch above their weight. They have quality players in Litton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mehdi Hasan Miraz, and the experience of Mushfiqur Rahim. Then there is captain, easily the best cricketer Bangladesh have produced, Shakib Al Hasan. They seem to thrive on chaos and this WC is no different with Tamim Iqbal getting dropped in the last moment. Not to mention that he retired and unretired in a span of 24 hours recently.

HOW THEY LOOK?

With the 2023 ODI World Cup set to commence October 5, a glance at Australia, Pakistan and Bangladesh...

AUSTRALIA	PAKISTAN	BANGLADESH
P 44	36	P 53
W 24	24	W 29
L 20	10	L 21
T/NR 0/0	1/1	N/R 3
W/L 1.200	2.4	W/L 1.38

WC WON: NONE (2015 quarterfinalists)



DRAWBACKS: While they do have this 'us vs world' most of the time, when the clutch moment actually comes along, they tend to crumble. The injury to Ebadot Hossain did not serve them well and what more, they will need Taskin Ahmed to do the heavy lifting early on, something that is crucial before the spinners come along. In an ever-changing format, they have struggled to keep pace.



World Cup won

1992



STRENGTHS: Their biggest strength is their pace attack. Naseem Shah is ruled out of the tournament but they still have quality pacers in Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf. The former is a dangerous customer to deal with, especially with the new ball. Haris' pace and bounce make him unplayable at times and he along with late addition Hasan Ali can come handy on certain pitches. Moreover, they have prolific runscorers in the top four to pile on runs.

DRAWBACKS: Their top-order batters — Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan — can provide ideal start but their middle-order is not consistent. This brittleness sometimes leads to batting collapse. But their biggest worry will be the indifferent form of their vice-captain and spinner Shadab Khan. His form in the Asia Cup was below par and he needs to overcome this phase sooner than later if Pakistan wish to repeat their 1992 feat in the showpiece event.

EXPRESS READ

Fenesta Open: Manish enters second round

NEW DELHI: Defending champion Manish Sureshkumar of Tamil Nadu began the 28th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship 2023 at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi on a positive note with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Maan Kesharwani (UP) in the men's singles category.

Medvedev in semis; Swiatek wins on debut

BEIJING: Daniil Medvedev beat Frenchman Ugo Humbert 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to the semifinals of the China Open. Making her first appearance at the China Open, Iga Swiatek advanced to the second round with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Sara Sorribes Tormo.

Liverpool respond to VAR controversy

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool criticized the Professional Game Match Officials Limited and warned it will "explore the range of options available" following the VAR controversy at Tottenham. PGMOL, the referees' governing body in England, admitted VAR officials made a mistake.



Early detection and treatment, especially with antibiotics, can help cure the disease. Either doxycycline tablets or penicillin injections can help treat such infections. Delay in treatment can worsen the situation, leading to hepatic, pulmonary and renal complications, and may even cause death — Dr Althaf

Early detection, antibiotics can help fight Leptospirosis

ANNA JOSE @ Kochi

The approaching monsoon increases the risk of leptospirosis — spread by the bacteria *Leptospira*. Also referred to as mud fever, pea pickers disease, canicola fever, Weil's disease, hemorrhagic jaundice, infectious jaundice, swineherd's disease, swamp fever, and European swamp fever, among others, agricultural workers and cleaning/sanitation works are prone to being infected, says Dr Sreenivasa Kammath, president of the Indian Medical Association, Kochi Chapter. "The bacteria are present in the

excreta or urine of animals such as rodent rats. Thus, people working on farmlands or involved in cleaning activities are prone to getting infected," he added.

CAUSES

Dr Althaf A, an epidemiologist and professor of community medicine at Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram says open or healing wounds allow the bacteria to enter the body from polluted water. "When wounded, in-



SYMPTOMS

Initial symptoms

- Fever • Headache
- Muscle tenderness especially calf and thigh • Lower backache

Symptoms at a later stage

- Jaundice • Oliguria
- Bleeding tendency
- Respiratory distress • Cardiac failure, convulsions, and coma

jured skin or cracked heels come in direct contact with polluted water, allowing the bacteria to enter the body. Waterlogging, muddy water, etc facilitate its spread," the doctor added.

PREVENTION

Antibiotics, experts said, administered as soon as possible can cure the disease. Those dealing with polluted and muddy water, can take steps to ensure they are not infected.

Agricultural and estate workers are recommended to take doxycycline once a week for six weeks. Wearing boots and gloves while workings advisable. People with wounds on legs shall refrain from cleaning and agricultural activities until the wound heals.

NEWS CAPSULES

'Sugar coating' solution to autoimmune diseases?

The 'Nature Biomedical Engineering' journal reported about an 'inverse vaccine', this month, which could help in combating autoimmune diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, type 1 Diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis. A way to tame the immune system that can wage a war against itself, rendering medications useless, inverse vaccination entails directing antigens to the liver. It is developed by researchers at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME) in the US. The team has come up with the new approach of directing potential self-antigens to the liver - an organ crucial to establish tolerance. Antigens will be directed to liver using a chain of sugars, according to Science.



Heart palpitation? Not necessarily an attack

Have you ever felt your heart racing at such a high speed that you have felt your head spinning, or splashing cold water on your face? Or, worse, felt like your chest will explode and considered a heart attack? While the sensation of heavy pounding of the heart calls for immediate medical help, it does not always lead to a heart attack. Instead, it could suggest underlying lifestyle habits such as lack of sleep, stress, anxiety, over working, obesity, among others that warrant considering working on oneself. Consuming too much caffeine and certain kinds of drugs can also lead to one's heart pounding. Self-medication, however, is not advisable. Be smart, visit a doctor.

Possession of e-cigarettes violation of law

Possession of e-cigarettes (an alternative to tobacco-laden cigarettes) and similar devices in any form, quantity or manner is in violation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act (PECA) 2019, the Union Health Ministry said in a clarification. The clarification was sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) last month, official sources said, adding that it will strengthen the enforcement of the ban. The ministry said that though there is no explicit mention of prohibition of individual use of e-cigarette in PECA, the law has been enacted to prohibit the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of e-cigarettes.



Sexual, reproductive healthcare discussion

CommonHealth, a rights-based group that advocates for improved access to sexual and reproductive health care, held a southern consultation meeting in collaboration with Rural Women's Science Education Centre from September 29 to October 1. A total of 24 organisations participated and discussed the state of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in TN, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry. It focussed on maternal health, access to safe abortion and contraception. Participants pointed out disparities in access to services Members of communities such as adivasis, Dalits, fishers, LGBTQIA+, women with HIV, highlighted concerns specific to them.

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

MINIMALLY invasive procedures are making giant strides in areas where such interventions were unimaginable a few years ago. The success ratio, low risk and minimal scarring with this technology have made it the preferred choice for the surgeons as well as the patients. The latest surgical turf technology is gaining accreditation among cardiologists.

Cardiac surgeons see the laser tech as a game changer with the potential of serving as a promising alternative to bypass surgeries as well as a great aid in performing complex angioplasty procedures. Besides, the recovery period after the procedure is comparatively much shorter than the traditional procedures.

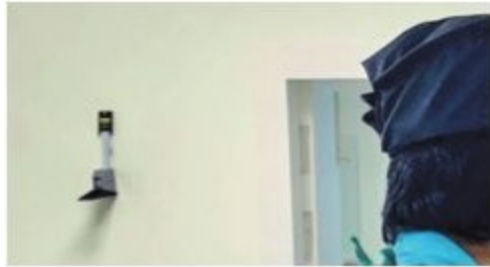
According to Dr Udgeeth Dhir, director and Head of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS), Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, Transmyocardial revascularization was the key for the usage of lasers in cardiac surgical procedures, where special CO2 lasers are used to treat patients with end-stage coronary disease who don't respond to medications or other interventions.

"However, the technology is now used in angioplasty, in cases which are not amenable to bypass surgery. It's especially a great choice in acute procedures where surgical wires are unable to pass through the occlusion (blockage in the artery)," he said.

High-energy laser catheters are engineered to emit focused beams with pinpoint accuracy on the calcified blockages in the arteries. This innovative approach allows surgeons to precisely target and vaporise plaque buildup and restore the blood flow in the vessels. The laser energy also seals the treated area, reducing the risk of restenosis or re-narrowing.

"Laser therapy has revolutionised our ability to treat patients, especially in complex cases with multiple blockages or total blockages. Previously, we often considered these cases untreatable, however with laser therapy, we can perform effective angioplasties, and patients can be discharged within just one day," said Dr Praveen Chandra, chairman - Interventional & Structural Heart Cardiology, Heart Institute, Medanta, Gurugram. Given the momentum laser is gaining in cardiac care, many have argued that it may replace traditional stents. In many recorded cases, the laser has cleared the blood passage so effectively that patients did not require a stent afterwards.

However, experts are not buying this theory. "It is not going to replace the stent but will aid the surgeons in placing a stent in the area which could not have been possible earlier due to the risk involved in creating the channels. The main purpose for them (laser technology) is to create a path for the angioplasty. However, they will be adding to the robotic technology and will ultimately help in making those procedures safer for complex cases which seem undoable with the previous technology," Dhir said.



LASER TECH FOR HEART

REVOLUTION IN THE MAKING

While some experts claim laser therapy aids in dealing with complex cases with multiple or total blockages, others opine that traditional stents are here to stay

ing those procedures safer for complex cases which seem undoable with the previous technology," Dhir said.

"No, laser therapy doesn't replace traditional stents. In fact, in about 30-40% of cases, we can perform procedures without the need for stents, using laser and balloon angioplasty instead. Laser therapy's primary application is in cardiac care at the moment," Chandra added.

However, the experts also gave hope for the expansion of laser technology in other areas. "The scope of laser in cardiovascular surgeries is expanding. Soon, they will be used in arrhythmia surgeries as well," Dhir said.

But how safe is the technology? Experts say that the medical fraternity has approved the clinical significance of using lasers in coronary treatment. "There have been phases of clinical trials followed by regulatory approval. Besides, there are guidelines of case selections where this modality could be used," Dr Dhir said.

Chandra also corroborated and said that

laser therapy for cardiac care has received approval both worldwide and in India. "It has proven to be quite effective, particularly in challenging situations where angioplasty was previously not possible. While laser therapy is not exclusive to India, in this part of Asia and among Asian countries, India is indeed one of the pioneers in utilising this technology," he added.

The treatment is available between ₹1.5 lakh and ₹3 lakh in the hospitals. The experts said that the cost is not exorbitantly high but more expensive than the traditional procedures.

"The cost of laser therapy is not exorbitantly high. While it is somewhat more expensive than traditional methods, it is within reach for many patients and not prohibitively expensive," Chandra said.

"Every new technology is a little costly. It's not too cheap but not costlier than a human life. A successful procedure is of paramount importance than the cost involved. A healthy patient is more precious," Dhir said.

WHAT GIVES LASER TECH AN EDGE OVER TRADITIONAL PROCEDURES

PRECISION

The level of precision laser therapy offers is greater than the traditional methods, which reduces the risk of damage to healthy tissues and post-op complications to a great degree

REDUCED RISK

With the ability to vaporise plaque, the risk of dislodging plaque particles and causing embolisms is significantly reduced

VERSATILITY

This technology can be employed in various arterial locations, including coronary arteries, carotid arteries, and peripheral arteries

LESS TRAUMA

Compared to traditional methods, laser therapy is less invasive, potentially leading to shorter recovery times and reduced hospital stays

MINIMAL SCARRING

Smaller incisions and precise treatment mean minimal scarring for patients

'Only one-third of 100 million Indians with poor eyesight have access to spectacles'

SINDUJA JANE @ Chennai

Lack of access to vision screening and awareness are the biggest impediments to uncorrected refractive error of eyes (which require a pair of spectacles for correction). The urban poor and rural populations are most affected, says Vinod Daniel, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), India Vision Institute, a non-government organisation that works in providing access to primary eye care.

Scale of refractive error issue in India?

Of the 100 million Indians who need a pair of spectacles, only one-third have access to it, according to the estimates of the World Health Organisation.

India Vision Institute focuses on addressing primary eye care, human resource capacity, and create awareness. Since its inception, IVI has conducted vision screenings for close to a million underprivileged Indians, including half-a-million children in over 22 states, and provided corrective glasses to those in need. Typically, 7 to 8% of children need glasses, while the percentage stands at 55 for adults. With Myopia (inability to see distant objects clearly) in rise across the world, children are recommended to spend



INTERVIEW VINOD DANIEL

more time outdoors, in the sun.

● How are school children affected by the refractive error problem? How accessible is vision screening for school kids in India? Eighty per cent of what a child learns in school is

visual and children's inability to see clearly affects their performance. In corporation and tribal schools in India, over 95% children get their eyes screened for the first time, and so the need is huge. Otherwise, it would impact the academic performance of 7 to 8% of these children.

● How will WHO SPECS 2030 address the problem of refractive error in India?



The initiative will address the huge unmet need for spectacles while delivering quality eye care. WHO's target for 2030 is to expand the effective refractive error coverage (EREC) from 35% to 75%. This means, as against the current proportion of 35 out of 100 people using glasses, 75 out of 100 individuals will be given a pair each. Over a 100 million Indians would benefit. The initiative would also mean governments across the world will have to report to WHO on the progress in their respective countries.

According to WHO, globally, at least 2.2 billion people have a near or distance vision impairment.

Globally, how many have access to glasses?

According to WHO, only 35 out of 100 people, who need glasses, have access to it. Awareness of good eye care practices is growing among children and adults. People are also realising good eye vision can reduce accidents and increase productivity.

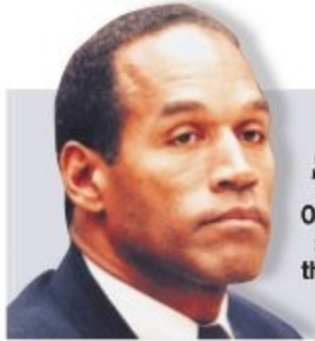
Future plans of India Vision Institute?

Over the next five years, IVI aims to average half a million free eye screenings a year; assist the capacity and quality of primary eye care service; increase awareness about eye care among the underprivileged, and to make a pair of spectacles accessible.



A curated guide to
events in the city

PG 2



DAY'S DIARY

Simpson acquitted

On this day in 1995, former football star OJ Simpson was acquitted of the double murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman

THE CRIME

In 1994, Nicole and Ronald were stabbed to death in Los Angeles. By June 17, police had gathered enough evidence to charge OJ Simpson with the murders



ESCAPE ATTEMPT

Simpson hid in the back of a vehicle driven by his friend AC Cowlings. Officers pursued him for over an hour. The "escape" attempt was televised live



THE TRIAL

Simpson's criminal trial was a sensational media event. It was the longest trial ever held in California, and courtroom TV cameras captured proceedings

SPINS & GRINS

Upcoming film *800* – denoting the wickets cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan has taken in his test cricket career – chronicles his story, which he shares on his visit to B'lu



A still from the film

film is factual. "Sripathy stayed with us for nearly two years, he visited all the places that I had lived through in my life, talking to local and international cricketers, my friends from school and more," says Muralitharan, adding that the film will clear many 'illusions' that people have about his career. "Nowadays it is easy to analyse a player's bowling action through advanced technology. Anyone can do it with just their smartphones. But when I first started, it was a bit awkward. It was very hard to determine my bowling action with the naked eye and people were under illusions about my ability," he adds.

Set to be released worldwide on Oct 8, work on *800* originally began in 2018, but the production was beset with various problems leading to lengthy delays. "The whole production was a rollercoaster ride. Changing directors, changing producers and of course actor Vijay Sethupathi had to pull out. And then Covid happened. When that was done and just when we thought all the problems were behind us, the financial crisis came about and Colombo was literally burning. So I can't thank the crew and director enough for weathering all the difficulties and obstacles to make this film," Muralitharan adds.

Despite his lethal spells on field, Muralitharan was also known for his ever-present smile which earned him the friendship of many a competitor. Kumble, a contemporary of Muralitharan, says, "Our careers literally ran parallel, but I never saw him as a competitor. When Murali was on the field, he always had a smile on his face. So, it was just impossible to get into that aggressive game mode."

That combination of ruthless performance and a friendly persona came in handy for Muralitharan in 2012, when he was persuaded by Kumble, then an advisor to Royal Challengers Bangalore, to join the team. Speaking of his time with the team, he says, "The fan support for RCB is incredible. Whenever I played at Chinnaswamy Stadium, looking at the mass of red in the stands was just something else. When I played for the team, I enjoyed it immensely."



PIC: NAGARAJA GADGAL

DESE GOWDA

A distinctive bowling action, characterised by a whirling arm movement that evoked controversy and admiration in equal measure is the most defining feature of Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan. The most successful bowler in Test Cricketing history, with 800 wickets to his name, Muralitharan is beloved across the world, and especially in South India. Growing up in Kandy, Sri Lanka to a Tamil-immigrant family, at a time when the island nation was fast heading towards civil war between the majority Sinhalese government and the Tamil minority guerillas, Muralitharan's life is nothing short of dramatic.

An upcoming film, titled *800*, to denote the number of wickets he has taken in his international test cricket career, chronicles Muralitharan's story. "My life is like a movie itself (laughs), but I was initially hesitant to do this. We have a foundation to help the needy and the poor in Sri Lanka and a few of my friends and family were convinced that the film could be beneficial to the foundation," says Muralitharan, who was in Bengaluru on Sunday to promote the film alongside former Indian captain and coach Anil Kumble, and *800*'s lead actor Madhur Mittal.

Written by Tamil filmmaker MS Sripathy and Sri Lankan writer Shehan Karunatilaka, *800* explores the 51-year-old cricketer's impressive-yet-often controversial career, along with his childhood and personal life. Muralitharan, who dislikes 'masala films', emphasises that the

Nowadays it is easy to analyse a player's bowling action through advanced technology. Anyone can do it with their smartphones. But when I first started, it was a bit awkward. It was very hard to determine my bowling action with the naked eye and people were under illusions about my ability

- Muttiah Muralitharan, Sri Lankan cricketer



CITY READ

Jagarukta Rally organised

On October 1, Jagarukta Rally was organised to sensitise people on Swachhta in connection with the Swachhta Pakhwada 2023, organised at the Rail Wheel Factory on September 16. R Rajagopal, PCME, flagged off the event, and along with him, PHODs, HoDs, and other officers participated in the 'Shramdhan'. On September 29, a seminar on 'Say No to Single-Use Plastic' was organised and Dr Selvarajan, an environmentalist, spoke about the importance of saying 'no' to plastic. Cleaning activities, an essay competition for staff, and a drawing competition for students of the Kendriya Vidyalaya were also arranged.



Students work towards cleaner, greener city

In a display of civic responsibility, students from CMR University and CMR Institute of Technology (CMRIT) joined forces on the occasion of Swachhta Diwas to lead a spirited campaign for environmental awareness in partnership with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and various prominent non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This collaboration aimed to raise awareness and actively contribute to cleaner and greener communities across Bengaluru. Students dedicated their efforts to areas, including BTM Layout, KR Puram Market, and Mittaganahalli, where they engaged in clean-up drives, waste management initiatives, and educational workshops.

Dipped in humour, this city-based pop singer's latest song is based on tech addiction and how it ruins relationships

MONIKA MONALISA

BENGALURU-based indie pop singer Natasha Carroll croons about the funny side of tech addiction, and how it can ruin relationships in her latest song *11 Days*, which dropped recently. The lyrics of the song may sound relatable to many, but that is not surprising, since the phobia of staying away from phones has become a universal issue.

Carroll didn't want the song to be either preachy or melancholic. "I wrote *11 Days* as soon as the lockdown came to an end,

In search of a simpler life

so it was a retrospective piece about how the world is changing and how addicted we have all gotten to our phones. It is more of a satire. It includes my idea of how technology comes in the way of intimacy. Another influence for the song was how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is taking over the world of artistes," says Carroll, a ukulele teacher. Ironically, the musician relies heavily

on technology for her work. Talking of the song's name, Carroll reveals that she was inspired by a song by legendary English rock band Beatles. "I was in love with the song *Eight Days a Week* by Beatles that speaks about workload. So that is why *11 Days*... where people lose sense of time, and things become blurry," she says. The songs mostly have the raw background music of the ukulele. "The idea was to create unconventional music and use the undermined power of the ukulele," says Carroll.



I used to carpool through an app, usually on my way back from the airport. That way I got company while driving back to the city. Moreover, the way the traffic scene is going, I feel the Hebbal flyover can do without one more car. We recently saw a really bad traffic jam where Bengaluru's roads were choked. Carpooling is a simple way to reduce vehicles on the road.

— Rohith Sarcar, photographer



Carpooling comes with conveniences, like taking rides with people in and around your office. There is also surge pricing based on the timing, cancellations, etc. So carpooling in such cases will help.

— Priyanka Pani, software engineer



My office used to be quite far from home, approximately 21km. At that point, I heard about a carpooling app from one of my friends and thought of giving it a try. It is a great way of commuting in a city like Bengaluru where traffic is a big concern. Because of this, we can limit carbon emissions and do our bit for the environment. I don't understand how this ban is going to help the common man.

— Sudhanshu K Ojha, techie



Taxing move

Even after a recent traffic pile-up leading the city to become a point of conversation, the government has banned carpooling in Bengaluru, a decision that has not gone down well with many

— Monika Monalisa



I don't understand how this decision works towards reducing traffic on the road. In tech parks, it is so difficult to find a cab or auto during peak hours. With this ban, we are now forced to drive to the office. How is it a positive move? On days when taxi drivers are on strike, these carpooling apps come in handy.

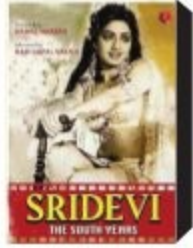
— Shubhra Singh, IT professional

I would not personally opt for carpooling for safety reasons. It would be better if it was organised at a community level rather than through apps with strangers. I feel if the government is banning carpooling, it should provide better and more frequent public transport. But I would prefer individual transport over hitching a ride with a stranger.

— Apoorva Amaresh, actor



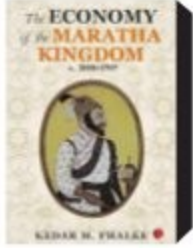
BOOK NOOK



Sridevi: The South Years

by Amborish Roychoudhury

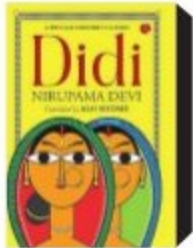
Sridevi set the screens alight for over forty years. This book looks at her early career as a child artiste and leading lady before she became a household name in north India.



The Economy of the Maratha Kingdom

by Kedar M Phalke

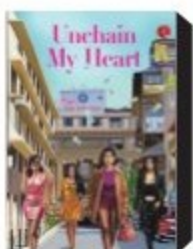
In 17th century India, the Marathas were rooted in the vocation of cultivation, working as tillers, peasants and landowners. This book sheds light on a variety of issues that played a role in the rise of the kingdom.



Didi Nirupama Devi

Translated by Alo Shome

This is the story of a woman who loves to be in charge of things. Yet, for her husband, she is only a co-wife. Her challenge is to lead a fulfilled life within the parameters of her weird circumstances.



Unchain My Heart

by Sharika Esther Sharma

The book presents the story of modern Indian women, through Ailya, Eisha, Reena and Malini—trying to not just survive but thrive in a competitive world.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



Laughter Marathon

Experience an uproarious evening filled with unfettered humour and spontaneous wit with Anamika, Akash, Shivangi, and Mohit at this open mic.

■ **When:** Oct 3, 8.30pm
 ■ **Where:** Glens BakeHouse, Koramangala
 ■ **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Break a leg

Prepare to be swept away on a mesmerising journey into the heart of Argentina's most passionate dance form, tango, with instructors Martin Concha Mendez and Viveka Carceres.

■ **When:** Oct 4, 7pm ■ **Where:** LVDS, Indiranagar
 ■ **Details:** bookmyshow.com



Melodic Evening

Step into a realm where the boundaries of music are blurred and melodies come to life like never before at 'Melodic Madness', a fusion of sounds and souls.

■ **When:** Oct 4, 8pm
 ■ **Where:** Small World, Koramangala
 ■ **Details:** bookmyshow.com

FARMSTEAD CAMPING

Embark on an unforgettable adventure at 'Camp@Farm', a day filled with fun, laughter, and nature-filled experiences. Explore the beauty of a farm stay and ease your breathing.

■ **When:** Oct 3, 3pm ■ **Where:** Arovi Connect with Nature, Sarjapur Road
 ■ **Details:** bookmyshow.com



Celebrating Tigers

Celebrate the majestic beauty and the importance of tigers with 'Tiger's Spotted at Lahe Lahe', an event that promises live entertainment, photo opportunities, and delicious dining.

■ **When:** Oct 3, 11am ■ **Where:** Lahe Lahe, Kodihalli
 ■ **Details:** bookmyshow.com



Theatre Time

Set in the vibrant and nostalgic '80s, Rangasiri Production's *Blackout* delves into the life of a typical middle-class family as they navigate the ups and downs of their daily lives.

■ **When:** Oct 3, 7.30pm
 ■ **Where:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
 ■ **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Twice the Joy

Enjoy a 1+1 offer every Tuesday with 'Two for Tuesday' at Happy Brew. Groove to the beats of music by DJ Hassan. Entry free for couples and single women.

■ **When:** Oct 3, 8pm
 ■ **Where:** Koramangala
 ■ **Details:** bookmyshow.com



THE WILD SIDE

Visitors explore artworks showcased at Wild 2.0, a wildlife photography exhibition at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

CHEESY, HEALTHY OMELETTE



Contributed by Neleena RK, Thrissur

INGREDIENTS

- Olive oil (or any oil): 2 tsp
- Sour cream: 1 tbsp
- Spinach (finely chopped): ½ cup
- Shredded cheese (Parmesan or cheddar): 2 tbsp
- Broccoli (finely chopped): ¼ cup
- Spring onions (finely chopped): 1 tsp
- Milk: 1 tbsp
- Salt: 1 tsp
- Egg (large): 1

METHOD

- Heat oil in a small pan over medium heat. Add broccoli and spinach and cook, stirring occasionally, until they turn tender.
- Whisk egg and milk in a small bowl. Add the mixture to the pan and stir a bit to combine with the vegetables.
- Tilt the pan to let the egg run under the edges, until a thin, even layer is formed.
- Cook on low flame for a couple of minutes. Sprinkle cheese and salt.
- Roll into an omelette. Top it with sour cream and spring onions.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

PARIVRTTA PARSVOTTANASANA (REVOLVED INTENSE SIDE STRETCH POSE)

This is a part of hip-opening yoga sequences. It helps in opening the shoulders and tones the core. This opens side muscles (Latissimus Dorsi), which are one of the largest muscles in the back, which helps in extending and rotating the arm.

STEPS

- Start in Tadasana (Mountain Pose) and take a few breaths. Exhale, bend your hips taking the torso in a forward bend, placing the hands in front of you, exhale out completely. Stay here for about 3-4 breaths.
- Move the hands, placing them further ahead of your feet, but slightly towards the left. Pressing torso, exhale by stretching arms and lower back.
- Exhale, taking the right leg towards the left side, from behind the left leg. Place the right foot on the floor and move the left foot further in front towards the short end of the mat and point the toes in front.
- Inhale deeply, loosen the torso, exhale, move the hands on the floor, stretching the arms and shoulders and press the chest inwards.
- Exhale completely and inhale again. Torso should be at a 45-degree angle keeping the front foot and the hands on the floor as the base.
- Stay for about 2-3 breaths, and gradually increase it to 5-6 breaths.

BENEFITS

- Stretches the leg muscles, hips, pelvis, shoulders, chest, rib cage, and back.
- Opens the chest, shoulders, armpits, upper and middle back, and neck.
- Increases lung efficiency.
- Helps flush the unwanted energy (prana) from the body.
- Helps increase blood circulation towards the head.
- Ensures the smooth process of udana vayu, apana vayu, and samana vayu.
- Stimulates the jatharagni (metabolic fire) in the body.
- Activates and balances Muladhara (Root), Swadisthana (Sacral), and Manipura (Solar Plexus) Chakras.
- Benefits runners, athletes, dancers, swimmers, gymnasts, or other artists.

LIMITATIONS

People with injuries in the ankles, knees, legs, hips, hamstrings, rib cage, spine, lower back, shoulders, or neck, undergone abdominal, hip, or had heart surgery, general body weakness or weak musculature, weak lower back, ankles, neck or shoulder stiffness or spinal disorders like hemiated disks, advanced cervical and lumbar spondylitis, scoliosis and kyphosis, high BP, vertigo, migraine, or dizziness, pregnant women and senior citizens, avoid this.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

REGIONAL



SINGLE SHANKARUM SMARTPHONE SIMRANUM (Tamil)

In this sci-fi comedy, a food delivery boy gets a super intelligent AI phone which has all the emotions of a girl. His life completely changes when it starts falling in love with him.

■ **Cast:** Shiva, Megha Akash
 ■ **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



CHARLIE CHOPRA & THE MYSTERY OF SOLANG VALLEY (Hindi)

When her fiancé, gets implicated as the prime suspect in the murder of his uncle, Charulata 'Charlie' Chopra rushes to his aid at his family home.

■ **Cast:** Wamiqa Gabbi, Paoli Dam, Nasseeruddin Shah
 ■ **Watch on:** SonyLIV

VIDYARTHI (Telugu)

The drama follows Chaitanya as he joins an agricultural college where caste discrimination prevails. In this college, upper-caste domination is rampant.

■ **Cast:** Chethan Chenu, Bunny Vox, Naven Neni, Yerra Raghu,
 ■ **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



SHIPPUR (Bengali)

A political journalist in Kolkata discovered a woman who went missing in the late 1990s after becoming a notorious mafia gang leader. Was she murdered by rival gangs or was her disappearance the result of a nefarious political plot?

■ **Cast:** Parambrata Chatterjee, Swastika Mukherjee, Susmita Chatterjee
 ■ **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

LOVE LIFE & PAKODI (Telugu)

Arun and Rhea start their relationship wanting the stability. It quickly reaches a complicated phase. How they face the hurdles is the story.

■ **Cast:** Bimal Kartheek Rebba, Sanchitha Poonacha, Krishna Hebbole, Kalajyothi, Anuradha Mallikarjun
 ■ **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



BIYE BIBHRAT (Bengali)

After a series of unsuccessful relationships, Shakyia reluctantly consents to meet a prospective bride. However, things take an unexpected twist when the girl's former lover reenters the picture.

■ **Cast:** Parambrata Chatterjee, Abir Chatterjee
 ■ **Watch on:** ZEE5

FOREIGN

STREET FLOW 2 (French)

Struggling to overcome cycles of betrayal, revenge and violence, the Traore brothers continue to fight for a brighter future in a seedy Paris suburb.

■ **Cast:** Bakary Diombero, Jammeh Diangana, Kadi Diarra, Kery James
 ■ **Watch on:** Netflix



MONEY FLOWER (Korean, series)

Pil Joo is the keyman of Cheong A Group that Chairman Jang Kook Hwan founded. He met Boo Cheon, Kook Hwan's grandson, when he was young and has been his loyal servant ever since. One day, Chairman Jang calls Boo Cheon and Pil Joo over to decide who's going to inherit the company.

■ **Cast:** Jang Hyuk, Park Se-young, Jang Seung-jo, Lee Mi-sook
 ■ **Watch on:** Netflix



OVERHAUL (Portuguese)

The story portrays how a racer is lured in by the influence of a criminal gang to drive the getaway car of their heist. He must now find the means to save himself from the clutches of this evil.

■ **Cast:** Thiago Martins, Sheron Menezes, Raphael Logam, Milhem Cortaz
 ■ **Watch on:** Netflix



STILL UP (English, series)

Lisa and Danny, two best friends bonded by insomnia, stay connected to each other late into the night as they traverse through a world of wonderfully weird surprises as their relationship continues to deepen.

■ **Cast:** Antonia Thomas, Craig Roberts, Blake Harrison, Lois Chimimba
 ■ **Watch on:** Apple TV

Netflix:	₹199/month
Prime Video:	₹299/month
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹699/year
JoGema:	₹899/year
Hoiho:	₹999/year
ZEE5:	₹499/month
SonyLIV:	₹699/year
	₹299/month

NOW STREAMING

Explore an endless universe with Starfield

STARFIELD did not make the best first impression on me. The vastness of this space-faring epic doesn't really come through in the first three hours of gameplay – which involve wading through a few tutorials, slowly walking around, and some truly dull but necessary cutscenes to set the story up. But this is all to be expected in RPGs of the scale which Bethesda, the developer of Starfield, specialises in.

My character started the game as a humble miner in a distant resource heavy planet. However, as rags to riches stories go, I found an 'Artifact' that would soon change my life forever. The universe has a flair for dramatics. This strange Artifact that I touched turned out to be some sort of cosmic jukebox that played Windows Media Player-esque animations with music. This immediately caught the attention of a shady organisation called the 'Constellation', who then recruited me to help them find more such 'Artifacts'. There was a purpose to all of this, they believed.

It does sound like a dreary process to find these Artifacts – looking for tiny stones that could be anywhere in the universe? This is not the Marvel movies, and my character doesn't have a handy gauntlet tailored for the collectibles. With Starfield boasting a single-player campaign stretching beyond 200 hours, I had to wonder...



ARE YOU GAME?
 Anusha Ganapathi
 @quofies
 (This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)



was it worth turning over planets to find these Artifacts? However, Constellation managed to seduce my character into this hunt, convincing me to follow a breadcrumb trail across star systems with the promise of a cushy bedroom, untold riches, thrilling adventures, and a free spaceship. About eight different menus. That's the initial hurdle that every Starfield player must grapple with. From juggling skill points to swapping out weapons, managing a limited inventory, and navigating an immense galaxy-sized map – the game doesn't ease you in gently. If you're expecting a quick pick-up-and-play experience, this isn't it. Starfield demands your time, and it's insistent.

All of a sudden you find yourself 20 hours in. And that's the beauty of it – the trove of adventures, story, politics, and drama on the

different planets keep you playing without realising it. And all of the difficult features start to feel intuitive. More than the Artifact hunt, it was the micro adventures that felt the most rewarding. Helping an elderly widow uncover the mysteries behind the death of her husband. Plastering posters around the city for a young kid determined to keep everyone's spirits high. Racing across galaxies to deliver a comic book to a die-hard fan. I even found myself negotiating a bank heist! Interestingly enough, these smaller events weave into the foundational stories of Starfield itself. The smaller stories signify that not all is well under the famed 'United Colonies' framework, and may even have you questioning the motives for your employer's quests.

Of course, I still had problems navigating within planets, and problems docking my ship in space stations. Ironically, for a game that hinges on space exploration, piloting my spaceship and engaging in aerial combat felt more rudimentary than riveting. Don't get me wrong, Starfield is stellar. But it's not without its quirks. That said, these imperfections somehow contribute to the game's unique charm. Pick up Starfield on the PC if it can handle it, or try the Xbox edition for some 'Grav Jumping' across solar systems. While the game sells at ₹5,000 in retail, it is free if you have the Xbox/PC Game Pass subscription.

The writers' views are their own)



DO you have the space and time in your life for love and relationships?

When our life is quite full with all kinds of different things that take up almost all our time, attention, focus and mental energy, we might feel like there is no time for love or a relationship, certainly not a new one. It might be a stressful time at work, a startup idea that we really got behind, health emergencies for parents or others, educational priorities such as a thesis one is working on, or even a creative project like a movie or a book that one has gotten into – maybe just one of these, or a whole bunch of them. Sometimes, it may not be something that we are working on or developing for the future, but a part of our past that we need to work through – trauma from the past that we discovered we need to work through, anger issues, spiritual practices or personal fitness and health. It could be any number of things that take up all the time and energy we have available.

At such times, just thinking of



LOVEOLOGY
 Mahesh Natarajan
 (The author is a counsellor with InnerSight)

a new relationship can feel like a lot of effort, let alone actually start one. Even the relationship we are in might seem like so much work that we might feel like taking a break from it so that we can focus on the other things that are taking up our mental space. We may not feel like we have the capacity to attend to the needs of someone else at the time.

If that resonates, just review these two sentences, and you might recognise that it is not love or relationship itself that seems exhausting, but the three words: work, effort and attention. It is those three things that exhaust us when our plate is already full, not love itself.

Can there be loving relationships that don't feel like it is work? Something that doesn't re-



OPEN SPACE
 Nirad Mudur
 Deputy Resident Editor
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FOR solutions to any problem, it boils down to individuals. When the mind is made up at the individual level that a problem needs to be solved, it can – and will – be solved. It only needs such individuals to get together as a mass and push for a solution.

The 'problem' here is our deeply fractured society, what we commonly refer to as 'diversity'. It is actually not a problem. Diversity is good. Pluralism is needed. A multi-faceted society is a boon. It is the base for healthy exchange, to learn from each other and benefit, to grow together, to put down common problems that affect all of us, and to give a boost to art, culture, science and technology, medicine and engineering so problems are mitigated and healthy, happy living gets a chance – for all, without exceptions.

Sounds Utopian, right? But then, what is life without ideals and dreams for a better future for all – again, without exceptions?

Unfortunately, the diversity that we should be proud of is exploited by sections, political or otherwise, to give way to hate and suspicion. This grows like invasive weeds from inside deep cracks in a parched, dry land, allowing it to fester and threaten the very fabric of our society. We then blame that very diversity we have been proud of for the situation that we have brought upon ourselves.

Isn't that where we stand today? Differences which are communal, caste-based, linguistic, sexist and region-based in nature, which should have been the scaffolds of a healthy, pluralistic society, instead fuel a hate machine that threatens our society.

"Upper caste-lower caste", "majority community-minority community", "North

WHEN we talk of board games, it invariably leads to a conversation on dice. Dice of different types have been used from the most ancient times to generate random numbers and with that comes concepts of probability. Dice and the concept of probability have long been linked to gambling. The Gambler's Lament in the Rig Veda is a poetic monologue by a gambler about the ruin brought on him because of addiction to dice. The verse below gives us some insights into his feelings.

"Play not with dice: no, cultivate thy corn-land. Enjoy the gain and deem that wealth sufficient. There are thy cattle there thy wife, O gambler."

Despite the perils of gambling, playing dice was considered an important skill among kings and the ruling class. To quote C Rajagopalachari, "The Kshatriya tradition made it a matter of etiquette and honour not to refuse an invitation to a game of dice."

In fact, during the Rajasuya ceremony, (the consecration of the king) towards the end of the rites, the enthronement of the king was accompanied by a dice game which was rigged so

'UNITY IN DIVERSITY' NOT A CLICHE; IT'S A MAGIC POTION

Indians-South Indians", "men-women-transgender", "sexual orientation", "urban-rural" – all these are potential flash-points that invite disharmony.

These are nurtured by elements – again, political or otherwise – who are the only ones who seek to gain from it, while heaping misery on the vast majority of the population, irrespective of their communal, caste, linguistic or regional affinities.

But, irrespective of where they belong, or their roots, the entire population is exposed to the same combination of problems, be it health, finances, security of livelihood, life, happiness and sorrows, and their vulnerabilities to disasters, natural and man-made. The

solution to a problem faced by an individual with a particular social profile is the same for that faced by another from a different social profile. The treatment for tuberculosis or pneumonia is the same for a Hindu as it is for a Muslim. Solutions to such problems facing the people do not recognise divisions that are nurtured and kept festering in our minds. The

air we breathe and the water we drink does not change based on the individual's social or communal profile. We are equal before the solutions.

Instead of coming together and tackling the problems to ensure maximum benefits for the maximum number of people irrespective of the existing divisions, we fall for the divisions nurtured by the selfish elements seeking power through perpetuating those divisions. We are allowing ourselves to be held captive by those few who seek to enhance their power by widening the social divisions.

The famous author and science communicator, Isaac Asimov, in the afterword to his book *A Choice of Catastrophes: The Disasters That Threaten Our World*, states, "...if we concentrate coolly on the problems that face all of humanity, rather than emotionally on such nineteenth century matters as national security and local pride; if we recognise that it is not one's neighbours who are the enemy, but misery, ignorance, and the cold indifference of natural law, then we can solve all the problems that face us. We can deliberately choose to have no catastrophes at all."

Well, start here in Bengaluru, and set an example for all to follow...

(The writers' views are their own)

ILLUSTRATION:
 SOURAV ROY



JUST PLAY



VINITA SIDHARTHA
 vinita@kreedagames.com
 The writer is an author and the founder of Kreed, an organisation reviving traditional games

that the king would win. Traditionally-used dice were the nuts of Vibhittaka or Thandrikai (in Tamil). However, over centuries, India developed a robust dice tradition with numerous games played on a variety of boards as well as a wide variety of dice.

With such strong ritualistic links to dice and gambling, it is not surprising that wars were fought, kingdoms fell, and people were killed over a game of dice. From the epic Mahabharata, which brought two sides of a family to the battlefield with bloodshed and misery, to the explosive story of Balarama killing Rukmi over a game of dice or the love story of Nala and Damayanti and the challenges they faced over a loss in a dice game, the stories are numerous.

While many identify the game of Chaupad (or Shokkattan or Dayakattam) as the game played traditionally in the ep-

Let's Talk About Dice!



ics, there is no real reference to it. What we see in sculptures and paintings are mere artistic renderings for there is little evidence as to what game was played. However, due to the grief that the game caused, it earned a reputation over time and many people would not play the game or play with dice fearing that it would bring friction to the family.

Tragically it meant the slow fading away of a game from memory and people's lives. In-

terestingly, many who continued to play the game came up with a compromise. At the first throw of the dice, no move would be made a symbolic gesture, as a prayer to keep harmony among players.

This wonderful dice game, a brilliant interplay of choice and chance slowly saw a resurgence as people came to understand that the game could not be blamed for human frailty.

More recently in the city of Fatehpur Sikri built by Emper-

or Akbar, located south of the Diwan-i-Khas is a large courtyard with visible markings of the game of Pachisi or Chaupad – the dice game played on a symmetric cross. The rather large dimensions of the playing area suggest that humans might have been used as playing pieces in the game.

While the stories about dice and the game range from the spectacular to the tragic, to me the most beautiful and delicate are from the Karpuracaritabhana of Vatsaraja describing a game of dice between Shiva and Parvati. Parvati says after losing a game:

I'll pay up what I owe you, all the kisses you won at dice. But what's the rush? You clever man, your eagerness is misplaced. Under our terms, I have a period of grace, a hundred days and nights. That's what she said, while Shiva was already blinking his eyes – the sun and moon – and at every blink a day was over. So many emotions, so many stories, so much feeling in just... dice.

(The writers' views are their own)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Tirumalesh.D father of Aarush.T, aged 16yrs 10 Months, presently residing at A-304, unique concord apartments, Lkr nagar main road, Tatanagar Bangalore North -560094, have changed my minor son's name from **AARUSH DESAI** to **AARUSH.T**, vide affidavit dated 30/9/2023 sworn to before L.B. Anasuyamma advocate and notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Neha Choudhary**, Residing at #A110, Serenity, Souttree, Sarjapur Road, Sompura Gate, Kadagahara, Bengaluru-562125, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NEHA** to **NEHA CHOUDHARY** vide affidavit dated 02-10-2023sworn before notary B.K.R Krishna Murthy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Vikash Cm S/o CN Manohara**, residing at No.8, Flat No.202, 2nd Floor, M K Pride, 2nd Cross, HMS Layout, Ramkanjaneya Nagar, Chikkalasandra, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru-560061, do hereby declare that my name is changed from **VIKASH C M** to **VIKAS C M** vide affidavit dated 30-09-2023 sworn before notary B.K.R. Krishna Murthy, Bangalore.

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, **Dileep K.C**, S/o Channiah, R/a No.134, Shankari Nilaya, 6th Cross, Shastri Nagar, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560028 do hereby state that, my name in my SSLC Marks Card, reads as **DILEEPAK.C**. But in my Aadhaar and Pan card it is mentioned as **DILEEP K.C**. I further state that both **Dileepa K.C.** and **Dileep K.C.** belongs to one person i.e., me only. Further I declare that I will carry out all my future business in the name of **DILEEP K.C.** through vide affidavit dated 11.09.2023 sworn before Notary Rekha M.

'THERE IS MORE THAN JUST ACTION IN FIGHTER'

...says director Nuthan Umesh as he discusses his upcoming film, starring Vinod Prabhakar

A SHARADHAA

Nuthan Umesh, known for his debut film, *Krishnan Marriage Story* (2011), and *Asthitha* (2016), is venturing into his first-ever full-fledged commercial entertainer with *Fighter*. The director clarifies that the title *Fighter* may imply it's a pure action film, but it encompasses a mix of emotions, love, and even some comedy. Furthermore, the movie sheds light on the struggles of farmers and the corporate manipulation of agriculture.

Nuthan reveals that he had only one person in



mind, Vinod Prabhakar, right from the inception when crafting the story and character for *Fighter*. "I believe that Vinod's physique, acting prowess, and his unique ability to convey an underlying story, made him the perfect fit for the role. I have aimed to showcase a different facet of him, and he will be showcased as Mohak, the character, rather than just Vinod Prabhakar," says Nuthan ahead of the film's release next week. "Every character in the film is driven by a

sense of justice and has their own motivations for their actions."

Nuthan has brought together a fresh team in terms of the technical crew. Composer Gurukiran is onboard the film, which marks his first collaboration with Vinod. "The significance of a skilled music director in enhancing the overall impact of the film is really important, and Gurukiran has done a fantastic work. The cinematography is handled by KS Chandrashekar."

One intriguing aspect of the film is its ensemble cast, which includes Paavana, Lekha Chandra, Kuri Prathap, Girija Lokesh, and others. Nuthan also succeeded in bringing Nirosha, the daughter of the renowned South Indian actor MR Radha, back to Kannada cinema. "She plays a pivotal role as the mother of the protagonist, and the emotional dynamics between the mother, son, and the father's flashback moments are the highlights of *Fighter*."

I believe that Vinod's physique, acting prowess, and his unique ability to convey an underlying story, made him the perfect fit for the role
Nuthan Umesh, director



It has been my lifelong dream to play the hero in a Kannada film:

Karthik Raju

CE FEATURES

Noted producer Vaizag Raju, known for his collaboration in movies like *Halunda Thavaru*, *Appaji*, *Mane Devaru*, and *Karulina Koogu*, is now introducing his son Karthik Raju to tinsel town. The young talent, who has already showcased his skills in a few Telugu films, is now venturing into the world of Kannada cinema with the action-packed film titled *Atharva*.

This film is going to be a multilingual project, directed by Mahesh Reddy and produced by Subhash Nitalapati's Peggo Entertainment. It's crafted in both Kannada and Telugu, with plans for dubbing and release in Tamil and

Malayalam too. The makers, currently in the final stages of post-production, are gearing up for a grand release in the month of November.

Speaking about his debut,



Karthik Raju says, "My father, Vaizag Raju, has produced a plethora of blockbuster Kannada films. It has been my lifelong dream to take center stage as a hero in a Kannada film, and now, that dream has become a reality. Before this, I had a small but memorable role in Puneeth Rajkumar's *Veer Kannadiga*."

Diving deeper into the film's storyline, Karthik explains that *Atharva* is a spine-tingling suspense thriller, where he plays an officer in the Crime department raring to crack a baffling murder case. "With post-production now completed, we are eagerly anticipating its release next month," he states.

Mahesh Reddy is making his directorial debut with this project. "The film raises compelling questions about how crimes are unraveled by the police department, even in the absence of concrete evidence," he emphasises.

Simran Choudhary, who shares the screen with Karthik Raju as the female lead, portrays the role of a tenacious journalist in the film. Mars Suresh has secured the distribution rights of *Atharva* in Karnataka. The film has music by Sricharan Pakala, and cinematography is handled by Charan Madhavaneni



Gantumooto DOP Sahadev Kelvadi turns director with Kenda

CE FEATURES

Sahadev Kelvadi, the cinematographer of *Gantumooto*, is set to make his directorial debut with *Kenda*. The first-time director has penned the story and also serves as a producer along with Roopa Rao (the writer, director, and producer of *Gantumooto*). *Kenda* is made under the Ameyukti Studios banner.

With the shooting of *Kenda* wrapped up, the makers recently released a motion poster with details of the cast and crew. *Kenda* will mark the entry of lyricist Jayanth Kaikini's son, Ritwik Kaikini, who will be composing his first music album. His father has contributed lyrics to a couple of songs in the film. Apart from Gopal Krishna Deshpande, the only notable face, *Kenda* features mostly newcomers like Bharath BV, Pranav



A still from the film



Sridhar, Vinod Ravindran, and others.

The storyline of *Kenda*, an absurdist political satire, revolves around a young man working in a foundry in the bustling city of Bengaluru. It explores various social aspects, including politics and crime. The film delves into how a youth, who toiled in a foundry, becomes entangled in the web of this system and the direction his life takes.

Interestingly, Shreyank Nanjappa, who worked as a

sound designer for the Oscar-winning documentary *Elephant Whispers* and *Pedro* has collaborated with *Kenda* as a sound designer. The post-production work is in its final stages, and the announcement of the release date is expected soon.

Praveer Shetty, Aishwarya Gowda wrap up shooting for Engagement

CE FEATURES

Praveer Shetty, who made his debut in *Siren*, has now completed filming for his second project titled *Engagement*. The movie, directed by Raju Bonagani, stars Aishwarya Gowda as the female lead.

According to the makers, *Engagement*, which is shot extensively across different places, explores the diverse beauty of India, from the lush landscapes of Coorg and Chikmagalur to the bustling streets of Mumbai and the serene beaches of Goa. The extensive filming journey covered locations like Chennai, and Hyderabad, showcasing the country's rich variety.

The film is currently in post-production, which is progressing at full speed, with plans to release it as soon as possible.

Engagement is produced by Jayaram Devasamudra under the Suram Movie banner and features an ensemble cast, including Rajagopal Iyer, Bala Rajawadi, Bhavana, Rajanisri Kala, Sharad Verma, Deepti Gupta, Sujay Ram DJ, and others in pivotal roles.



'The Audience never stopped loving Bollywood'



INDIRA KANNAN

Never went away, here to stay": that's filmmaker Karan Johar's declaration about Bollywood during an interview in Toronto. He was referring to recent social media controversies about some recent commercial films and their content.

Karan was in town for the premiere of *KILL*, the latest Dharma Productions release, co-produced with Oscar-winner Guneet Monga's Sikhya Entertainment, at TIFF, the Toronto International Film Festival. The slickly produced action thriller was showcased in Midnight Madness, only the second Indian film to feature in this section dedicated to horror, blood and gore at the world's largest public film festival.

The Hindi filmmaker spoke about the current landscape for films in India after the disruption of COVID and strident social media campaigns directed at some films and Bollywood personalities. He argues audiences are flocking back to the theatres. "The proof lies in the pudding," Ka-

ran said, adding, "This year, this quarter, will be the best quarter for Hindi cinema in over two decades. And not just Hindi cinema, but Telugu cinema, Tamil cinema, Kannada cinema, Malayalam cinema - we've had seven back-to-back successes right now in a span of 4 months."

This year's box office blockbusters include Shah Rukh Khan starrer *Jawan* and *Pathaan*, Sunny Deol's *Gadar 2*, and Ranjith's latest film, *Jailer*. In recent months, Bollywood has been roiled by social media campaigns directed at some recent releases, including calls for boycotting some films. Activists have pointed to the failure of some long-awaited films like the 2022 Aamir

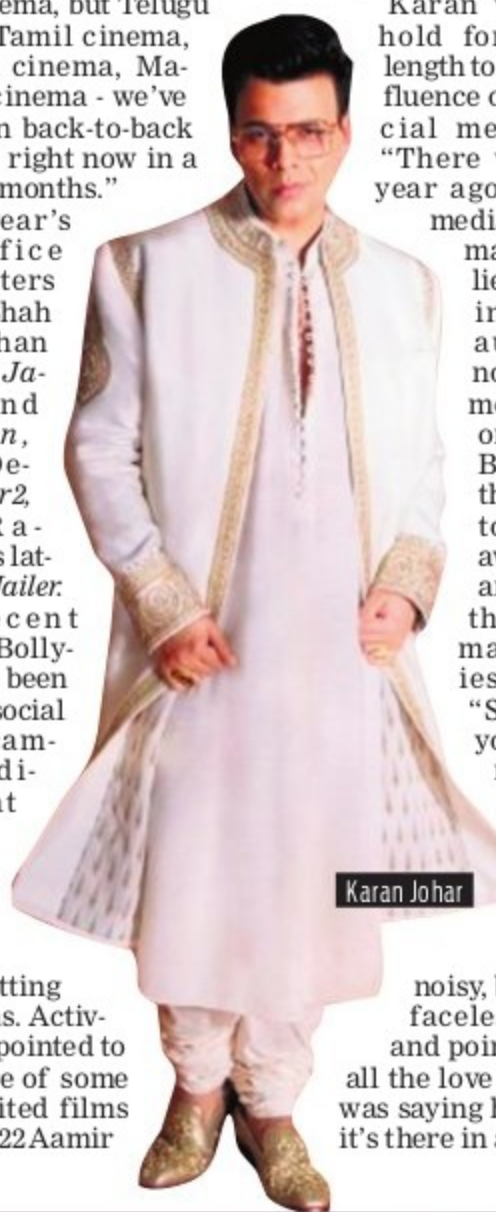
Khan starrer *Laal Singh Chaddha* as evidence of the audience's displeasure with Bollywood.

Karan was eager to hold forth at great length to dismiss the influence of negative social media, saying, "There was a time a year ago when social media had actually made people believe even in our industry that audiences are not loving our movies anymore, or boycotting Bollywood, that the love seems to have gone away and there's an anti wave to the people who make the movies." He added, "Social media, you realise, is a mirage. You think it exists but it doesn't. It's there, it's rampant, it's noisy, but it's mainly faceless, nameless and pointless people... all the love that everyone was saying had gone away, it's there in abundance."

He also made light of the talk of a North-South divide in commercial cinema, which sprang up after the box office success of films like *RRR*, *Pushpa* and *Kantara* at a time when some Hindi films were struggling. "We are Indian cinema, one cinema. So when people from Hindi belts are loving *RRR* it's a victory for Indian cinema. When *Jawan* is doing well in Tamil and Telugu markets, it's a victory for Indian cinema. Any time an audience flock to the cinema hall to watch content made out of India, it's a victory for everyone," said Karan.

Guneet, also in Toronto to present *KILL*, chipped in, "As an outsider or independent filmmaker I was even excited about Dharma presenting *Baahubali*. That was the start of bringing South cinema to the entire country and putting it out there. And how much love *Baahubali* got, kind of started the whole acceptance."

Streaming services came into their own during the pandemic, tailored for watching content from homes during lockdowns. But Karan believes the streamers are no match for the box office, and are at best, complementary to it. "I think one is helping the other," said Karan. "Streaming gives you great actors, great writing, great content, and great everything...but there is that one kind of film that you want to watch in a cinema hall. For example, a *Jawan*, a *Pathaan* or my own film *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani*, and several others - *Gadar*, which has broken all records."





MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI THE CHAIR OF C20

Mata Amritanandamayi was the chair of Civil 20 (C20), an official engagement group of the G20

LEADERSHIP HANDED OVER TO BRAZIL

The C20 chair was responsible for facilitating the C20 process. The appointment of each year's chair is the prerogative of civil society in the host country. Amma officially handed over the leadership of C20 to Brazil after a successful conclusion of its three-day summit.

WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF HUMANITY

Amma stressed the importance of embracing fundamental values and principles for the enduring well-being and safety of humanity at the C20 summit. Amma wished for a world where each nation is like a beautiful petal in a divine flower, radiating happiness and unity.

Civil20

COLLABORATING WITH MANY CIVIL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS AND NGOS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDRABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALIGUDE • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EXPRESS FOCUS

AMMA'S VISION OF INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY IS TRULY REMARKABLE

S SOMANATH

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Amma's ashram and the Amritapuri campus. During my visit, I had a discussion with Amma about the intersection of science and spirituality. Amma's vision of integrating science and spirituality is truly remarkable. She emphasised how scientific research can be used to serve society and how, in the vision of the rishis, everything is divine.

Amma said that according to Sanatana Dharma, the creation and creator are not two but one. She continued, "The ancient Rishis believed that science and spirituality were not opposing forces, but rather complementary. They saw them as two wings of a bird, working together for harmonious progress in society. Science improves the external world, while spirituality creates inner expansiveness."

In fact, research undertaken for the sake of serving humanity is a spiritual activity. Amma shared a personal experience from her youth when she witnessed people dying of heart failure because they couldn't afford a stent that had to be imported.

This experience inspired Amma to believe that we should manufacture our own cost-effective medical devices and conduct research to develop solutions for humanity. We discussed ancient Indian wisdom and how it integrated science and spirituality, such as with the Chidambaram Temple, which was modelled after the human body.

I was impressed by Amma's university's Live-in Labs program, where students go to villages and rural settings to find solutions for problems there. This programme helps students develop compassion while also gaining knowledge, and when knowledge and compassion are both present, society benefits. It was wonderful to have such an inclusive discussion about science with a great spiritual leader like Amma.

Amma says, "One of the biggest mistakes we committed was to separate science and spirituality, thereby disconnecting the two". The question is, "Are you on the side of science or on the side of spirituality?" We need to implement science and technology with a spiritual vision". I found this statement to be true and inspiring.

The author is
Chairman, ISRO



KIRAN PRAKASH

MOTHER IS GOD, we are told when we are young. Growing up with Indian ethos, we sincerely believe that, and as we get older, we realise why. Mother is central to Indian feminine divine tradition, and our scriptures place her above everyone else. And, here's a Mother who has assumed that stature for millions across the world through her love, compassion, service, and message. Mata Amritanandamayi, one of India's foremost spiritual icons, has turned 70, and here we mark the occasion with a special issue to celebrate her life, work, and teachings.

Amma, as her devotees adoringly address her, is not just a spiritual figure but someone who truly embodies all the essential qualities of a mother – unconditional love, care, sacrifice, patience, and selfless service. She is a guru and a giver and is sincerely protective of her "children", who come to her seeking her blessings and love. As Amma – clad in spotless white and wearing a charming smile – embraces those who line up for her darshan every day, she instantly, and almost magically, connects with each one. Like a mother, she instinctively knows how these people are feeling, what they are thinking, and what they want the most at the moment.

There are many reasons to celebrate the presence of Mata Amritanandamayi amidst us, one of them being her life itself. Born as Sudhamani in 1953, she turned to spirituality at a very young age, when she was still a child. Later, a momentous incident in 1975 marked her complete transformation – from the temporal to the spiritual. One day when she was walking home, she overheard the final verses of the Srimad Bhagavatam from a house nearby. The devotional singing in praise of Lord Krishna that followed the reading of the Bhagavatam made her stop in her tracks abruptly. Overwhelmed by divine bliss, she entered the Krishna Bhava (the divine mood of Krishna) and felt one with the Lord. According to Amma, in the initial days after that she used to dance in bliss and move about alone while being in Krishna Bhava. Amma says: "One day I strongly felt the urge to be absorbed in the Supreme Being without returning. Then I heard a voice from within saying, 'Thousands and thousands of people in the world are steeped in misery. I have much for you to do, you who are one with me.'" After that, she regularly appeared in Krishna Bhava and people started flocking to meet her on the beach near her house.

Thus began the spiritual journey that took the poor girl from a fishing village to the stature of being the 'Mother of All'. The girl who was once misunderstood by most around her is today a guru looked up to by the global community as a treasured repository of practical spiritual wisdom.

A truly global figure now, she has been invited by nations and international organisations to share her wisdom, and the Parliament

AN ICON OF HUMANITY

Amma is not just a spiritual figure but someone who truly embodies all the essential qualities of a mother – unconditional love, care, sacrifice, patience, and selfless service



of the World's Religions chose her as one of three presidents of Sanatana Dharma in 1993. Significantly, she received the Gandhi-King Award for Non-violence in 2002.

And, what makes Amma stand apart is her darshan. It's a loving motherly embrace that people queue up for. Amma embraces people with the purpose of giving protection, taking away their misery and grief, and spreading the message of love and care. She is available to everyone and no one is turned away. Amma has been known to embrace over 20,000 people in a day, giving darshan for over 22 hours. A hug, a smile, a few whispered words – this is how she seeks to transform lives, breathe life into those lost in misery, and propagate the message of selflessness and kindness.

Upholding the ancient Indian tradition of

charity, Amma's ashram is involved in multiple humanitarian activities, spanning areas such as healthcare, education, social welfare, and the environment. According to her, selfless service with compassion is the foundation of all spiritual practices. "The beauty and charm of selfless love and service should not die away from the face of this earth. The world should know that a life of dedication is possible, that a life inspired by love and service to humanity is possible," is how she explains the need to care for others.

While the Mata Amritanandamayi Math has been actively involved in helping victims of natural disasters, the network of medical facilities managed by it is reputed for charity, modern healthcare, and research. The ashram also runs a vast network of educational institu-

tions. Since setting up its first educational facility, the Amrita Vidyalayam primary school in Kodungallur in 1987, the Mata Amritanandamayi Math has established more than 60 education facilities throughout India.

Today, as we celebrate her birthday, it's hard to ignore her contributions to humanity in general, the impact she has had on people, the difference she made to the lives of the poor, and the stature she attained through selfless love, service, and compassion.

A simple life and even simpler but touching messages are what make Amma a true icon of humanity. She has shown the world that a smile and a hug can transform lives.

The author is Resident Editor, Kerala,
The New Indian Express

SHEKHAR KAPUR

Isn't it strange how connections are made? Or do they already exist and at one moment, and are just discovered when they are meant to? I've long been battling with my exploration of spirituality, without really even understanding the meaning of that word. I was creating an Art installation on Water at T3 in Mumbai. Part of it involved complex haptic technology... and several people pointed me to Amma's University. You mean the lady that hugs people, I asked? And a university that deals with complex technology? And so began my relationship with Mata Amritanandamayi, or simply Amma. "Amma, with everything that you do, all the world wide ashrams, all the universities and schools, and the hospitals that you run... how do you look after all of that?" "Not a brick in any of my establishments moves without my knowing" smiled Amma. With that extraordinary smile... that in itself is both a blessing, and provoking thought. Amma looked at me to see if the right question would emerge.

With your doing or you knowing, Amma? I asked. Amma laughed. Knowing I had asked the right question, she held my hand, that

Does a compassionate heart, a heart full of love, become a receptor... like two arms outstretched towards eternity, for all that is good

TO AMMA... WITH LOVE

to be created? For how else could a 9 year old girl, a fisherman's daughter in Kerala, with no education create... no... cause to be created... free schools for 1,50,000 school girls, one of the best paediatric hospitals in India... some say in the world... Amma University that covers a vast array of recognised degree courses in Science and Technology and in the Arts? Along with one of India's best Ayurvedic research centre and hospital? And now one of the most modern 2600 bed hospital/ medical school/ research centre near Delhi?

I asked a number of doctors at any facility 'Who makes all the decisions' and pat comes the reply... 'Amma does'

How?

When I first arrived to meet Amma, in her Ashram near Coimbatore in Kerala she was hugging people and whispering a blessing in their ear... her form of a blessing... this was early morning. I was tired after the flight and decided to sleep... after all there were over a thousand people waiting for her blessings. I

woke up in the evening, and Amma was still blessing the waiting people... and continued to do so till all had received her blessings. I asked 'Big Swamiji', as her chief disciple is affectionately called, how long she would go on. 'Till everyone has received their blessings. And no one will be, ever be turned away.'

'But doesn't she get tired?' I asked. 'Of course she does' Replied Big Swamiji 'But in all the decades that I have known her, she has never once missed the blessings, not once!' And this despite that Amma travels world-wide to several of her Ashram's almost half the year.

Spreading the same love, the same compassion, the same blessing to everyone that comes to her... and they come to her in thousands wherever she goes. And as I sat with Amma during her blessings, and watched as people cried, laughed, screamed in ecstasy or also in pain. Believing that in expressing their pain in the screams, Amma would take the pain away. Newly married couple, old people near death, poor people, rich people, black people, white people, people



of all nationalities... all merged into one. Into one desire to find peace in Amma's arms. In Amma's embrace. In her soft whispering voice... And as I sat next to Amma I was mesmerised. No mesmerised is the wrong word. In the chaos that surrounded Amma, I too was finding, feeling that intense sense of love.

From Amma to the people and from the people to Amma. No, I wasn't mesmerised. I was cradled in a fluid called love. I found myself talking to Professor Lee Hartwell. A devotee of Amma and a Nobel prize winner in Physiology and Medicine. "Have you analysed Amma's DNA?" I asked. What gives her the power that we all feel in her presence? 'As a scientist I analyse everything... but there's no way I can analyse Amma. She's to me this great powerful mystery... and in that mystery, I am devoted to her.' I asked Amma 'Do you ever get bored Amma?' Amma laughed

'Wherever I look, Shekhar, I find love. In everything I see, I see love... how can love ever be boring? 'How can I be more creative, better at what I do?' I asked. 'Everything you create, everything you do, do it in service of others. That's true creativity.' A Life devoted in service of others. The highest form of being. That's Amma's message...

The author is actor-filmmaker

INSIDE



2 A PRESENCE THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES



4 CIVIL 20 INDIA 2023 SUMMIT & ACHIEVEMENTS



8 BRIDGING SPIRITUALITY AND SCIENCE

THE HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES OF THE MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI MATH

A presence that transforms lives

The Mata Amritanandamayi Math's humanitarian programmes are multifaceted and aimed at helping the needy and inspiring compassion and a sense of oneness with the fellow human beings, whatever their background. The programmes strive to alleviate the burden of the world's poor by providing for the five basic needs — food, shelter, healthcare, education and livelihood wherever and whenever possible. The Math is especially focused on helping meet these needs in the aftermath of major disasters.

Augmenting these efforts, Amritanandamayi Math works in the fields of environmental conservation and sustainability to help protect the future of fragile planet earth. And through Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, researchers are innovating new means of delivery of goods, knowledge, information, energy and healthcare to help out those in need.

A major part of the organisation's humanitarian work is accomplished through the vast network of volunteers. Amma's message is recognised worldwide and has inspired people from all walks of life to come forward and volunteer their time. From healthcare to research to construction, volunteer effort reduces the overall cost of implementation. This multiplies every rupee of donor money tenfold, thus enabling a massive amount of aid to the needy.

Mata Amritanandamayi Devi — spiritual leader, humanitarian and visionary — was born in a remote coastal village in Kerala in 1953. Due to the rampant poverty in her community, she witnessed firsthand and at a young age the stark inequality in this world and wondered why some people suffer so much. She started giving whatever food and clothing she could find to others in need. She also began to spontaneously embrace them to comfort their sorrows. Experiencing her divine motherly nature, the villagers started to call her 'Amma,' meaning 'Mother.'

With the conviction that each of us has a responsibility to lend a hand to the less fortunate, Amma moved forward with confidence in her life of service and compassionate care for all. Amma explains, "A continuous stream of love flows from me to all of creation. This is my inborn nature. The dharma of a doctor is to treat patients. In the same way, my dharma is to console those who are suffering."

Now, decades later, Amma is truly a citizen of the world. She holds free public programmes across India, as well as around the globe — in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Australia. Amma embraces each person who attends. She has given darshan in this manner to more than four crore people and at times has continued for 22 hours without a break. It is thus during darshan that Amma directly hears the sorrows and problems of those who come to be blessed by her embrace. Drying their tears, she directly learns of their family problems, medical problems, financial problems, social problems. It is in response to these — as an attempt to find a solution — that Amma has launched all of Mata Amritanandamayi Math's humanitarian programmes. The range of work includes free medical care, building new homes for the homeless, orphanages, disaster relief, SHGs and much more. At the same time, thousands of those who experience Amma's compassionate embrace become inspired to offer their help as well.

In her satsangs, Amma offers words of wisdom and guidance on both personal fulfillment as well as the most pressing matters of our time. From climate change to terrorism, cross-cultural tensions to gender equity, poverty to online sexual exploitation, Amma's observations invite each of us to get involved in the process of rebuilding a concerned and caring society.



SHELTER

BUILDING A ROOF OF CARE FOR EVERYONE

As a result of poor shelter, polluted water and inadequate sanitation, 50,000 people — mostly women and children — die each day. The problem is disproportionately concentrated in the developing world. The math is doing its part to help put a roof over as many heads as it can. In 1997, responding to cries for help from women who spent entire nights mopping rainwater out of their thatched huts, Amma initiated a house-building project, with a goal of building homes throughout India. More than constructing houses, it works to build entire communities, complete with town halls, roads, electricity, wells, sewage systems and safe drinking water. As part of the response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, it also constructed homes in Sri Lanka and on Andaman Island. To date, the Math successfully relocated 1,600 families from abysmal slums into clean, new apartment blocks, so they could begin their life anew in sunny, hygienic spaces with proper plumbing, water and electricity.

1) New homes for tsunami refugees, Alappuzha, Kerala. 2) Raichur Housing Colony, Karnataka. 3) Vadakku Vanchiyoor, Kairakal, Puducherry. 4) Pune, Maharashtra: Built these apartment blocks for former slum-dwellers. 5) New homes for tsunami refugees, Edavanakkad, Ernakulam, Kerala. 6) Completed houses at Mela Pattinacherri, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. 7) Thekkawatta Housing blocks, Sri Lanka.

47,000 houses in more than 75 locations throughout India



HEALTHCARE

EXTENDING A HAND THAT TRULY CARES



₹816 cr worth of free care to more than 59 lakh people since 1998



Amrita Hospital, Kochi, performed India's first two double hand transplants

Since opening the doors of Amrita Hospital, Kochi in 1998, the Mata Amritanandamayi Math has provided more than ₹816 crore worth of charitable medical care, benefiting an astonishing 59,28,728 patients until 2022. Amrita offers sophisticated and compassionate treatment in a serene and beautiful atmosphere and is recognised as one of the premier hospitals in South Asia. Its commitment to serving the poor has attracted a dedicated team of highly qualified medical professionals from around the world. The 1,350-bed tertiary care hospital houses 43 speciality departments.

100 free health camps: Every year, Amrita Hospital conducts more than 100 free health camps in remote, impoverished areas. All treatment and medicines are given free of charge. Patients are also screened for serious diseases and referred to Amrita Hospital for further treatment when necessary.

Satellite hospitals: Amrita Hospital runs five satellite charitable hospitals: three in Kerala, one in Mysuru, and one in the Andaman Islands. The hospitals serve populations that would otherwise not have easy access to quality healthcare. All treatment is given free of charge.

Telemedicine: Amrita Hospitals operate four Mobile Telemedicine Units, the size of a city bus, which bring sophisticated medical care to remote areas. Through this telemedicine network, Amrita Hospitals offer specialised medical consultations to care centres and hospitals in rural areas. The units are also ready to respond when disasters strike.

Targeted public health initiatives for troubled populations: It provides family-oriented health education, run both rural and urban health centres, and train government employed community health workers.

EDUCATION

LIGHTING UP LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



55,000 scholarships for children in at-risk communities

Throughout the developing world, going to school is rarely free. Students are required to pay their own transportation costs, purchase uniforms, textbooks, notebooks and pencils. Children who cannot afford these basic costs cannot attend school. As families struggle to stay above the poverty line, the additional expense of school becomes an unlikely investment. And yet, universal education has proven to be the most effective means of eliminating endemic poverty, and on an individual level has been shown to be the most sustainable escape from poverty's clutches. **School for people with disabilities:** The Amrita Institute for Differently Abled is dedicated to providing education for children with disabilities, including those with Down's Syndrome, epilepsy, autism and intellectual developmental disability. Proper developmental therapy incorporating daily skills, early social integration and schooling are provided.



SCHOLARSHIPS: Through providing scholarships to children of farmers living below the poverty line, the Math aims to lay a stronger economic foundation upon which these families can base their lives. **School for the hearing-impaired:** The Amrita Speech & Hearing Improvement School is one of the few schools in Kerala that scientifically teaches hearing-impaired children to speak.

AMRITARITE AFTERSCHOOL TUTORING

Working under Amma's strategic vision, the AmritaRITE (Rural India Tablet Education) Project serves to bridge the increasing technology and education divide between urban and rural areas of India. Tablet-aided after-school tutoring have created a huge education impact.

AMRITA SHILPA KALAKSHETRA

The Amrita Shilpa Kalakshetra was established through a collaboration between the Government of India and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham with a mission to revive the traditional Indian art forms. Providing full financial support with stipends is a huge encouragement to attract talent.

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was granted Deemed-to-be-University status by UGC in 2003 at which time it had only 1,260 students and 200 faculty. Today, it is educating a vibrant student population of over 20,200 with 2,003 faculty, offering more than 250 UG, PG, and PhD programmes.

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

Amrita Vidyalayams, a national network of value-based schools, are managed by the Math. Amma attaches great importance to providing education and training to children for the development of each child's creativity, intelligence and character. She wants the children to have the finest education that helps them in their comprehensive development.

DISASTER RELIEF



LENDING A HAND WHEN EVERYTHING FALLS APART

Amma's compassion and concern for disaster survivors is so complete that she responds to every aspect of their situation—not only fulfilling their material and emotional needs, but also keeping an eye on their future. The provision of long-term support for disaster survivors has carried thousands through the darkest periods of their lives into the light of a hopeful future.

2020 - 2022 COVID-19 Pandemic: ₹85 crore in healthcare, community support, and economic recovery.

2019 Pulwama Terror Attack (J&K): ₹2 crore (₹5 lakh to 40 families of CRPF soldiers killed in terror attack).

2019 Kerala Monsoon: ₹1.2 crore (₹1 lakh to 121 families who lost a member in heavy monsoon).

2018 Kerala Flood: ₹10 crore in aid to Chief Minister's fund; relief camps throughout Kerala; 24-hour emergency helpline.

2017 Puerto Rico Hurricane: Distributed 3,000 pounds of staple food to survivors.

2017 Ockhi Cyclone: ₹2 crore in aid to Chief Minister's Fund; relief camps.

2016 Puttingal Temple Fire (Kerala): ₹1 crore to victims and their families; free treatment at Amrita Hospital.

2015 Chennai Flood: ₹5 crore donation as well as evacuation support, medicine and food.

2015 Nepal Earthquake: Food, blankets, shelter and 2 tonnes of medicines.

2014 Jammu-Kashmir Floods: ₹30 crore in relief with focus on house construction.

2013 Typhoon Yolanda, Philippines: ₹11 crore in aid; support for orphans; community rebuilding

2013 Uttarakhand Flash-flooding: ₹100 crore in aid.

2013 Kerala Landslides & Boating Accident: ₹1 lakh given to each bereaved family.

2012 LPG Tanker (Kerala) & Fireworks Factory Explosions (Tamil Nadu): Aid packages to families of dead and injured.

2011 Japan Earthquake/Tsunami: ₹5 crore for education of orphans.

2010 Haiti Earthquake: Medical supplies, shelter materials, scholarships.

2009 Floods in Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh: ₹100 crore relief package including medical care, food, supplies and 1,000 homes for the displaced.

2009 Cyclone Aila, West Bengal: Medical care, food and supplies.

2008 Floods in Bihar: ₹5 crore in medical aid, food, supplies and shelter.

2006 Floods in Gujarat: ₹15 lakh medical aid; food and supplies.

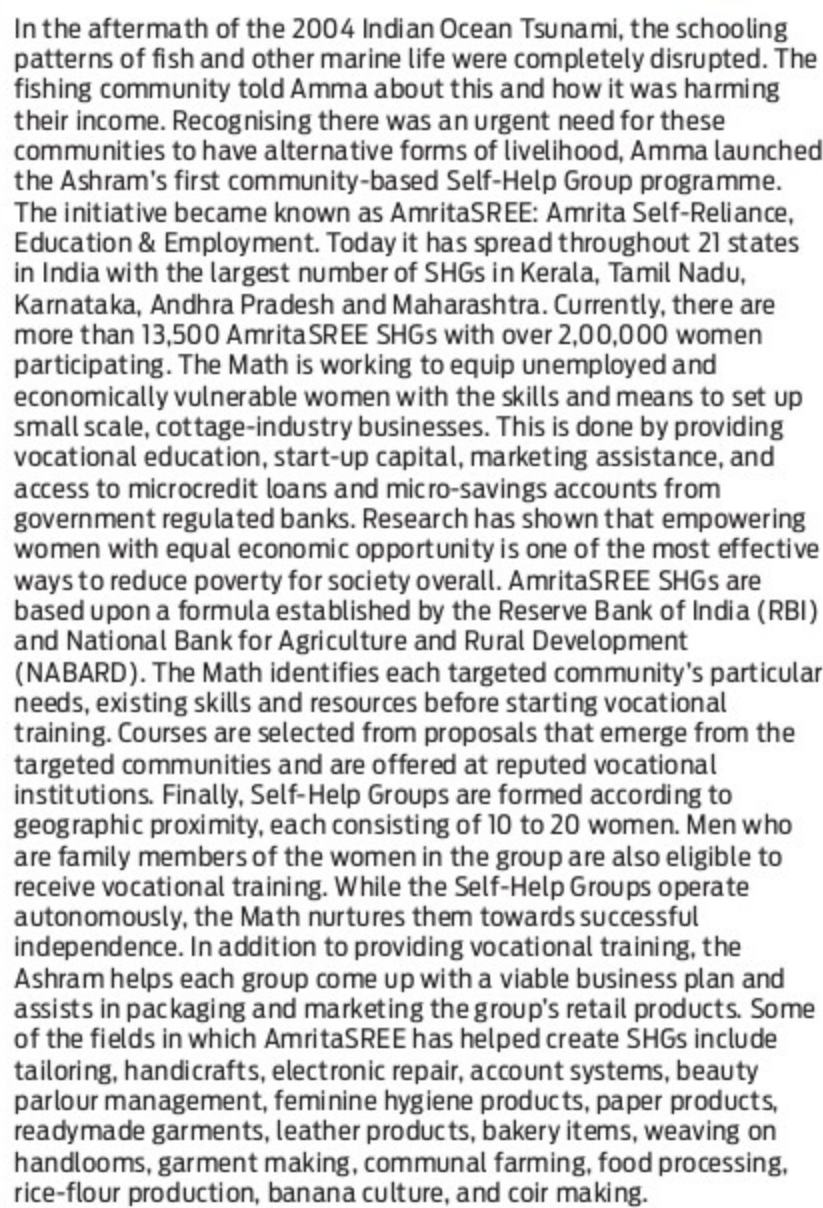
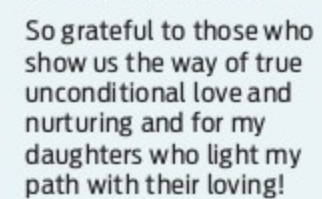
2005 Floods in Mumbai: ₹5 crore in medical aid, food, supplies and shelter.

2005 Hurricane Katrina, US: ₹4 crore Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.

2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami: ₹200 crore in relief (built 6,200 tsunami-resistant homes, 700 new fishing boats and an evacuation bridge; provided vocational training for 2,500 victims).

2001 Earthquake, Gujarat: Three villages rebuilt from ground up (1,200 homes).

1992 Earthquake, Maharashtra: Food, blankets, shelter and medicines to Lathore.





C20 INDIA STRUCTURE

Civil 20 (C20) is the official Engagement Group of the G20 that provides a space for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to voice the people's aspirations with the G20 world leaders. Under the guidance of its Chair, Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, a world-renowned humanitarian and spiritual leader, Sherpa Ambassador Vijay Nambiar and partner institutions Vivekananda Kendra and Satsang Foundation led by Sri M, C20 India fulfilled its role in bringing together a staggering number of CSOs in a country as diverse as India and formulating a 240-page Policy Pack encapsulating policies from 16 Working Groups for the purview of the G20

CIVIL 20 INDIA 2023 SUMMIT & ACHIEVEMENTS

THE JOURNEY

The C20 India journey started on January 16, 2023, with an Inaugural Ceremony attended by over 3,000 participants in person with over 8,000 joining online. After reaching out to the CSO community both in India and abroad, the C20 convened once again in Nagpur for the Inception meeting on March 20-21, 2023. During this meeting, 14 Working Groups were introduced under the C20 umbrella, covering topics of international significance while also bringing up Indian priorities. The number of Working Groups later expanded to 16, encompassing both global and national priorities.

The 16 C20 Working Groups comprise Integrated Holistic Health: Mind, Body and Environment; Sustainable and Resilient Communities: Climate, Environment and Net Zero Targets; Education and Digital Transformation; Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Technology, Security, and Transparency; Lifestyle for Environment; Preservation and Conservation of Traditional Arts, Crafts and Culture; Traditional and Innovative Ways of Livelihood and Employment; Human Rights as Human Values; Revival of Rivers and Water Management; Seva - Sense of Service, Philanthropy and Volunteerism, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - World is One Family; Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect; SDG 16+ and Promoting Civic Space; Delivering Democracy - Retrospect and Prospects; Disability, Equity, Justice; and Special Committee on Financial Issues.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, who addressed the gathering, said, "We need to establish cooperation, coordination and communication among the stakeholders. And people like you, who have their thinking in the interest of the welfare of the world...that is exactly the spirit behind this. I am really happy today that under the leadership of Ammaji, your thinking and your new futuristic vision will inspire and motivate the people of the world for the welfare of the whole world community."

From January until July 2023, the C20 Working Groups staged an impressive array of over 1,240 events. These consisted of policy dialogues, chaupals, samajshalas, in-person workshops, webinars, youth programmes and mass outreach campaigns. This diverse range of events attracted a wide spectrum of participants including representatives from grassroots



"We need to establish cooperation, coordination and communication among the stakeholders. And people like you, who have their thinking in the interest of the welfare of the world...that is exactly the spirit behind this. I am really happy today that under the leadership of Ammaji, your thinking and your new futuristic vision will inspire and motivate the people of the world for the welfare of the whole world community"
— Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister

organisations, prominent CSOs, government bodies, multilateral agencies like the UN, experts, academics, students, and other G20 Working Groups and Engagement Groups.

Through mass outreach campaigns (Jan Bhagidari), the C20's influence touched the lives of over 4.5 million individuals. A global resonance was achieved as representatives of 154 countries actively took part in the endeavours of the C20, radiating the globe with the

C20 tagline 'You are the Light'. Mass outreach campaigns across India and abroad focused on various areas such as health (999 Challenge), environment (such as the Seedball Campaign, in which the President of India, Droupadi Murmu participated on 7th of August, 2023, in Pondicherry, or Pledge for the Planet), democracy (Democracy Light), gender equality (Million Lights), sense of service (Sewa Sangam), and technology (GLIDES). Kailash Satyarthi called the Inception of India's Civil 20 a historic day, as it is the first time in his knowledge that the C20 is driven by the core values of spirituality. The thoughtful discussions stemming from these gatherings were synthesised into a comprehensive C20 Policy Pack and Communique.

Overall, the C20 India Chair's leadership provided many unique and valuable contributions, including a basis strongly rooted in compassion and humaneness guiding the journey embodying the spirit of the G20 tagline - One World, One Family, One Future - an ethos that can only be achieved through working collectively with open mutual sharing.

This remarkable journey reached its culmination during the Final Summit held in Jaipur from July 29 to 31, 2023, where 1,090 participants from 40 different countries came together, and the Policy Pack and Communique were released.



CIVIL 20 INDIA 2023
#YouAreTheLight



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Finding solutions for a better world through research

RESEARCH AT AMRITA SCHOOL OF NANOSCIENCES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE

Dr SHANTI

Research projects in fields of nano-medicine, regenerative nano-medicine and molecular medicine are active at Amrita School of Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine (ASNSMM). The focus of ASNSMM is translational medicine with a view to developing new innovative products that can make a substantial contribution to treatment and diagnosis of diseases in keeping with Amma's vision of making impactful societal contributions through research. A few of the most mature products are described below. It has developed a brain wafer and an injectable gel that can both treat and prevent recurrence of brain tumours. The wafer and the gel are affordable for Indian patients and the wafer is almost ready for regulatory approval for clinical trials.

A nanomedicine for liver cancer incorporates a small molecule into an oral nanomedicine which has shown exceptional efficacy in treating liver tumours. This is the first oral nanotechnology platform that has shown more than double the bioavailability of the corresponding free drugs. A bone regeneration product is now approved by the Government of India and is in clinical trials. This is the first biodegradable product that is capable of regenerating macro size bone defects allowing for complete healing and bone regeneration in patients who lose bone volume by cancer or trauma.



AIMS: AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Dr PRIYA

Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences has been at the forefront of research initiatives at the individual patient level as well as at the community level. The recent pandemic has reinforced the need to have research as an indispensable component of serving people through medicine in no small measure. From trying to understand the aftereffects of Covid infection, also called 'Long Covid', to making sense of vaccine hesitancy, non-invasive and innovative therapies for Covid like inhaled Nitric Oxide. Replacing surgery with non-invasive drops for restoring vision in certain eye conditions, reducing toxicity of chemotherapy using ayurvedic formulations, low-cost Wearable Gadgets For Seizure Prediction, non-invasive Brain Surgery For Seizures are among the several other ongoing research initiatives on the healthcare campus. Amrita faculty members continue to enthusiastically explore and harness the phenomenal potential of emerging technologies like Chat GPT, Artificial Intelligence, 3-D printing, mobile-health, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality to address pressing concerns in patient care as well as in medical education and training. Research has become a part of the academic requirement right from the undergraduate level itself. Several of the MBBS students have secured the short-term studentship award for research from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). There are more than 100 PhD scholars pursuing research on the Kochi campus. ICMR has honoured two of its research teams — Paediatric Cardiology and Snakebite Research Group — as ICMR Collaborating Centre of Excellence (ICMR-CCOE) for 2023-2028.



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN ANALYTICS, TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION (AMRITACREATE)

Dr PREMA

Aligned with SDG4, India's G20 Civil 20 initiatives and India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the centre deploys a multifaceted approach to advance educational accessibility, medical training, and community development. It integrates emerging technologies like AI, AR/VR, and computational linguistics across various projects such as Amrita RITE for personalised learning in over 250 villages, OLabs Virtual Labs for STEM education and specialised medical projects like MedSIM, AyurCel, and AyurSLIM. OLabs CS employs a multi-visualisation framework to bridge programming learning gaps, offering curriculum-aligned experiments in Python, Java and SQL. Special attention is given to linguistic inclusivity through research in Indic and tribal languages like Malayalam and Irua. A joint centre with the University of Buffalo focuses on leveraging AI and computer vision to address a range of disabilities, including speech and hearing impairments. A key project aims to make UMANG services accessible to India's deaf community through Indian Sign Language. The centre's initiatives have directly impacted over 52 lakh users and 54,000 teachers, setting new benchmarks for technology-aided learning and well being in India. Research encompasses generative AI, machine learning for handwriting error classification and speech recognition technologies. The centre collaborates with international institutions and serves as a pivotal repository for assistive technologies, thereby advancing accessibility and inclusivity.

AMRITA DST-CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

At Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala, aligned with the G20 Leadership Declaration of Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE) and Data for Development (D4D) to Accelerate Progress on the SDGs

Amrita DST-Centre for Policy Research aims to transform and elevate Indian higher education institutions' approach to eGovernance and Sustainable Development and is conferred by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, as Satellite Center for Policy Research. Chancellor AMMA emphasised at the 2015 UN Academic Impact conference that the future of Earth requires the integration of science, technology and spirituality for sustainable and balanced global existence. Based on this guidance, the centre will conduct policy research with a view to track and inform government about emerging eGovernance and Sustainability education trends aligned with the principles of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Panchamitra commitment at COP26 within the framework of National Education Policy 2020.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION HUB, MIZORAM

The DST Science and Technology Innovation Hub (STI HUB), a collaboration between Amrita and Mizoram University, aims to enhance tribal livelihoods, education, nutrition, Ayurveda and sustainability in four districts — Aizawl, Kolasib, Mamit and Serchhip. This integrated sustainable livelihood model employs technology transfer, skills training, digital literacy, and community empowerment. Collaboration with supporting organisations will further improve skills, livelihoods, and income, contributing to the Human Development Index (HDI). The impact encompasses two STI hubs, benefiting Self Help Groups, youth from six tribes with over 3,000 direct recipients and 2,00,000 indirect beneficiaries.

SAFE-NET

Dr PRABHA

PROBLEM

The Internet and other digital technologies in their current versions do not have adequate safeguards for children. Excessive Screen Time, including Gaming, Entertainment, Social media, PUI-Problematic Usage of Internet Explicit, Violent objectionable contents are known to be addition forming and interferes with the normal development of children and the young population. But with the rising usage of Internet and digital technologies for purposes, including online education and digital contents and platforms, children and young population may not be able to avoid using digital technologies and Internet.

SOLUTION

To address this issue, that allows parents /guardians, educationists/school administrators to provide Family/Child-safe Internet and Digital platform access, CISA! —Centre for Internet Studies and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham —with partial R&D support from MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) has developed a platform that provides the following comprehensive features.

1. Mobile application that empowers parents and guardians to customise the type of access and amount of time the child needs/can spend on various online platforms and digital devices.
2. Family/home based Safe-net access solutions that provide child-safe digital content for children and young population from other computing devices including laptops and desktops.
3. Child-Family Safe DNS server based service that provides child safe Internet access option for institutions such as schools, other educational institutions and homes.
4. A dedicated web-based portal that provides user registration and related information on these technologies in addition to providing periodic web-based talk/counselling with qualified wellbeing professionals, psychologists and psychiatrists and other educational materials for the children and family for their safety and digital well-being.

RESEARCH AT AMRITA SCHOOL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

Dr BIPIN

A trailblazer in the Biotechnology arena since its inception in 2004, the Amrita School of Biotechnology (ASBT) has been recognised as a TIFAC Centre of Relevance and Excellence (CORE) in Biomedical Technology. Interesting research projects of immediate societal impact with substantial research funding from various government agencies (DST, DBT, ICMR) as well as private organisations (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Tata Trust) are being actively pursued at the School. Some noteworthy research achievements resulting in significant publications, funding and recognition for the school, include: Selection for Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation DBT-BIRAC Grand Challenge India Award for the project to explore novel approaches to sanitation solutions in India. School initiated a major project with industry leader Wipro Technologies, Bengaluru, for the development of a low-cost device and cloud-enabled smart solutions for Diabetes Care funded by DBT-BIRAC, Government of India.

School is also engaged in a Tata Trust India funded project as part of the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS)



in collaboration with the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) to study the complex problem of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

The isolation and characterisation of novel bacteriophages, leading to the potential application of phage therapy for the combat of multi-drug resistant infections, is an area of active research at the School.

Another feather in the cap of School of Biotechnology is the nomination of ASBT in collaboration with Amrita Hospital as an ICMR National Collaborative Centre of Excellence (CCOE) in the area of snake venomics.

With more than 60,000 deaths/year being recorded in India due to snake bites, the need to look for rapid identi-

fication and therapeutic intervention to manage this problem is of extreme importance.

Other interesting research projects of clinical significance include: Active work on molecular mechanisms modulating cardiac regeneration, fibrosis and calcification using stem cells; Understanding the induction of alternate cell death pathways with natural products in the development of cancer therapeutics; Mass Spectrometry based proteomics, glycomics and biomarker discovery Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Systems Genomics for the identification of elements associated with disease genes and proteins as well as modelling and feature optimisation of novel drugs.

TRANSFORMING THE REALMS OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Dr MANEESHA

With an unparalleled vision that blends innovative thinking with multi-disciplinary approaches, Amma has transformed the realms of education and research through initiatives rooted in compassion. By deriving from the needs of the community, Amma quintessentially addresses the critical challenges faced by those at the bottom of the pyramid by providing sustainable solutions. The Sustainability & Resilience Resource Centres, established in 14 communities across India are beacons of empowerment. These centres offer vital interventions in areas of health, hygiene, water, sanitation, livelihood, and education. Equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure, the centres facilitate teleconsultations, remote teaching, interactive learning and more.

The university has developed the SREE (Sustainability and Resilience by Community Engagement and Empowerment) platform that is integrated with a crowd-sourced application called Empower App. The platform enables collec-

tion of community level data which is used to build community level sustainability and resilience, through AI-driven monitoring, assessment, benchmarking and recommendation.

One of the stellar examples of the use of technological innovation to help those most prone to disasters is the world's first AI integrated IoT system for early warning of landslides which has been deployed in Munnar, Kerala, and Sikkim. Since its deployment in 2009, this system has vigilantly monitored the regions, issuing real-time alerts and ensuring safe evacuation of over 10,000 people. As an answer to the woes of the fishermen navigating treacherous seas, Amrita's OceanNet is a revolutionary networking solution providing internet connectivity to fishing boats up to 60 km offshore. Stemming from Amma's vision to make healthcare accessible and affordable to everyone, the Amrita 5-in-1 health monitoring device effortlessly measures blood pressure and blood glucose without needles, revolutionising care for patients with diabetes and hypertension, significantly reducing healthcare costs.



CENTRE FOR FLEXIBLE ELECTRONICS & ADVANCED MATERIALS

Dr BALA

This upcoming multidisciplinary research centre offers state-of-the-art facilities to design, develop, fabricate and characterise non-enzymatic, flexible wearable sensors for healthcare and engineering applications, materials for hydrogen storage, artificially engineered materials with a variety of applications like bone/dental implants, micro/nano fluidics, materials for electromagnetic shielding in food packaging, high entropy alloys, energy harvesting and materials with high load bearing capacities. Another important venture at this centre is that it will host Kerala's hydrogen valley centre which is focused on hydrogen as the future fuel, in collaboration with the IITs and NITs. Recent works done at the centre helped develop a low-cost solution for diagnosis of tumour using non-invasive wearable passive sensors. The flexible electrodes developed by researchers can accurately locate the tumour using ERT (Electrical Resistive Tomography) and has developed a flexible wearable device for targeted localised radiation therapy. The centre has developed a next generation microfluidics-based lab on chip devices in combination with auxetic/meta structures for improved efficiency and modularity. These devices can be used to measure effectiveness of medicine absorption in blood, and can be used to predict diseases. Applied mechanics group of the centre has recently developed a high strength engineering load bearing auxetic members with a significantly high load to weight ratio with 65% of material reduction. These designs with light weight auxetic structures have been utilised to improve the biomechanical property of the newly designed bone implants. The auxetic structures developed in the centre produce sustainable implant models with easy post-operative recovery. Biodegradable/ bioabsorbable materials represent a pertinent class of biomaterials which can eliminate the need for revision surgery and minimise the impact of long-term foreign body response as in the case of permanent implant materials. This research team is working on developing novel Mg-based alloys for biodegradable implant applications. The electromagnetics group of the centre works towards reducing electromagnetic pollution by producing flexible shielding materials using natural polymers. Polymer nanocomposites have proved to be a significant alternative to metals for reducing the impact of radiation pollution because they have high impact resistance, low density and corrosion resistance.



Mata
Amritanandamayi
Math - Amrita
Vishwa
Vidyapeetham (in
cooperation and
collaboration with
other organisations
and communities
commits to provide
these technologies
and services free of
cost to the
community as part
of family and child
wellness and
human values.



Placement bonanza awaits Amrita varsity students

Value system imparted in Amrita must help students with not just an education for a living, but also an education for life

One of the major reasons for students and their parents choosing Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham over other top-rung universities and colleges is the guaranteed peace-of-mind it offers: placements! Of course, there may be other important aspects like a lush-green, serene, sprawl-

ing campus which render it an ideal ambience for the pursuit of knowledge; or the scores of qualified faculty experts from the best institutions of the world. The infrastructure is great too, and it includes the university's Wi-Fi campus, libraries, laboratories and workshops.

The university's Chancellor emphasises

that the key difference at Amrita should be the value system that is imparted in today's fastpaced world, to help students with not just an education for a living, but also an education for life. The 75-plus companies, which have visited the campus so far since the start of the engineering placement season in July 2014, have already made offers to 95 per cent of the students.

These include major recruiters like Amazon, Alcatel Lucent, CISCO, Ericsson, Honeywell, Indix, KLA Tencor, Larsen & Toubro, Microsoft, Mahindra & Mahindra, Mu Sigma, Robert Bosch, SAP Labs India, Oracle, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Technologies, Caterpillar, Thermo Fisher, UTC Aerospace, Wipro, Zscaler and Zoho. The average pay package stands presently at Rs 3.9 lakh with the highest offer at Rs 13.84 lakh a year. Similarly, for the MBA placement that began in October 2014, 96 major companies such as the TCS, ING Vysya Bank, Idea Cellular, Beroe, Citibank, Crisil, Deloitte, Wrigley, TCS BPS, Khimji Ramdas, Philips, CMA CGM Shared Services, HDB Financial Services, Madura Fashion & Lifestyle, Zoho Corporation, Shoppers Stop, HCL Infosystems, L&T Financial Services, Coffee Day, Bosch and Copal Amba have already visited Amrita campus. Ninety-three per cent offers have been made so far at an average package of Rs 5.40 lakh and a highest package of Rs 13.5 lakh per annum.



Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi



AMRITA-ROBERT BOSCH AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRONICS LABORATORY

The Amrita-Robert Bosch Automotive Electronics Laboratory in Coimbatore will support students pursuing their degree in engineering disciplines-- Electronics and Communication Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Automobile Engineering and Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering.

The laboratory fosters interdisciplinary research. The main objective of the lab is to bridge the gap between academia and industry and to bring in better connect to the latest automotive trends to enable faster deployment of students in actual projects. Experiments at this laboratory are designed with inputs from RBEI/Chief Experts and real-time experiments will be rolled out to students instead of conventional experiments. Embedded System Development Kit powered with Free scale processor with sensors and actuators will be utilised in this lab, which will provide an actual ECU environment.

This free scale kit is customised and will have all the advanced features that are necessary for any Automotive Embedded Software Development. The kit has LIN, CAN, SPI, GPIO Interfaces and is built on TWR-K40D100M Free scale Tower Board. Amrita University and Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in various areas of mutual interest including research.

5-YEAR INTEGRATED MSC/MA ON THE COIMBATORE CAMPUS

Programmes Offered

- 5-year Integrated MSc in Physics
- 5-year Integrated MSc in Chemistry
- 5-year Integrated MSc in Mathematics

ELIGIBILITY

A pass in +2 or equivalent with 50% marks separately in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and an aggregate of 55% marks

■ 5 Year Integrated MA in English Literature

A pass in +2 or equivalent with minimum 55% marks in English

RESEARCH: AIMING FOR THE FUTURE

Research is a very significant activity at Amrita. The research direction is to engage in technologies, projects and solutions for societal and humanitarian relief as also to conceptualise and develop low-cost technologies to solve scientific and societal challenges facing the world. These include pressing problems and issues such as sustainable development, water scarcity, waste disposal, environmental protection and renewable energy.

In fact, one objective being pursued is forming inter-disciplinary teams from med-

ical, engineering, management, social work, health sciences, biotechnology and nanotechnology to tackle issues that plague areas of water, waste, and energy, with a special focus on the transformation and development of our villages. Other research and development accomplishments, include an adaptive insulin pump for the benefit of diabetics, which comes at a fraction of the cost of similar devices; innovative product development in photovoltaics and storage devices using nanomaterials, which are primarily aimed at solving energy problems;

low-power wearable wireless ECG monitoring device; low-cost wearable safety device for women; India's first-ever wireless sensor network system for predicting landslides in Munnar, Idukki, Kerala.

Students have the opportunity to participate in research projects of various Centres of Excellence like Wireless Networks and Applications, e-learning, Cyber Security, Computational Engineering and Networking, Virtual Labs, Haptics, Educational Technologies and Biomedical Engineering.

SHASHI THAROOR

Amma has turned 70! For decades she has seemed ageless, a maternal figure almost since her twenties, revered by people far older than herself as "Amma". And now the world (including me) is flocking to her ashram today to celebrate a milestone in a life of spirituality and service to humanity. Mata Amritanandamayi, as Amma is known, is revered as "the hugging saint".

Born as Sudhamani Idamannel in a small and poor fishing village called Parayakadavu in Kollam, on September 27, 1953, she had a difficult childhood, facing poverty, discrimination, and abuse. From her earliest days, she felt a deep sense of compassion and empathy for the suffering of others and began to embrace them as a way of comforting them. As a child, she shared her food and clothing with the needy, despite the opposition of her family. Thus began her spiritual journey — spontaneously embracing and comforting people in her village who were in distress. Today she is known for her tireless devotion to serving

AN EMBRACE THAT CONVEYS LOVE, COMPASSION AND HEALING

humanity and spreading love, compassion, and spiritual teachings. Amma is best known for her unique way of spreading love and comfort through physical embraces, or hugs. She has hugged millions of people from all walks of life, transcending barriers of nationality, religion, and social status. Her embrace conveys a deep sense of love, compassion, and healing. Amma's famous hugs are her way of expressing her unconditional love for all beings. She believes that love is the essence of all religions and the true nature of God. She says, "Be like the honeybee who gathers only nectar wherever it goes. Seek the goodness that is found in everyone."

That she has done. She has hugged more than 39 million people around

the world and continues to travel extensively to meet her devotees and offer them spiritual guidance. I was one of them. I met her for the first time in New York at a devotee's apartment near the United Nations back in 1999.

I have been blessed to be hugged by her many times since, at her ashram in Kollam and also on her visits to New Delhi and other cities. But there is more to Amma than the unconditional love expressed through hugs. Mata Amritanandamayi's teachings revolve around the principles of love, compassion, and selfless service. Her core messages emphasize spirituality, personal growth, and the well-being of all. She

emphasizes that genuine spirituality is based on selfless love and that love is the true essence of our existence. Her famous quote, "My religion is love," encapsulates this teaching.

And love must be accompanied by action. Amma advocates selfless service as a means of spiritual growth and as a way to alleviate suffering in the world. As one with a minimal formal education herself, Amma believes in the importance of holistic education that also instils moral and ethical values. She has established educational institutions, including schools, colleges, and universities.

The lodestar among them is the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, a multi-campus research university. Above all, her

humanitarian work is extraordinary. Amma's Mata Amritanandamayi Math (MAM) runs various chari-

table projects in areas such as education, healthcare, disaster relief, environmental protection, women empowerment, and community development.

Amrita Hospital is a world-class healthcare facility, equipped with state-of-the-art technology and highly qualified staff, which provides a wide range of medical services, including free medical care to poor patients. The largest private sector hospital in the country, Amrita is a shining example of how excellence and care can converge for optimal health outcomes. It is guided by the vision and mission of Amma, who says, "The real service to society is done when we serve others without any selfish motive."

As I realised from the start of my acquaintance with her, Amma's teachings and humanitarian work have earned her a global following. She is a respected figure in many countries around the world. Foreigners who have attended her programmes or

received her darshan often speak of the profound impact she has had on their lives. Foreigners appreciate Amma's ability to transcend cultural boundaries and connect with people on a human level. A hug needs no translation! Her humanitarian efforts resonate with people worldwide, and she is widely seen as an icon of selfless service.

Amma's life, work, beliefs, and achievements are an inspiration for millions. She teaches that everyone has the potential to realise their true nature and serve humanity with love and compassion. She says, "Don't be discouraged by your incapacity to dispel darkness from the world. Light your candle and step forward." Amma leads by example, living a simple and humble life. She encourages her followers to practice simplicity, humility, and contentment in their own lives, emphasizing that material wealth should not be the ultimate goal. When we celebrate her birthday today, we are not just celebrating an individual, but a life, a cause, and love itself.

The author is Member of Parliament, Thiruvananthapuram

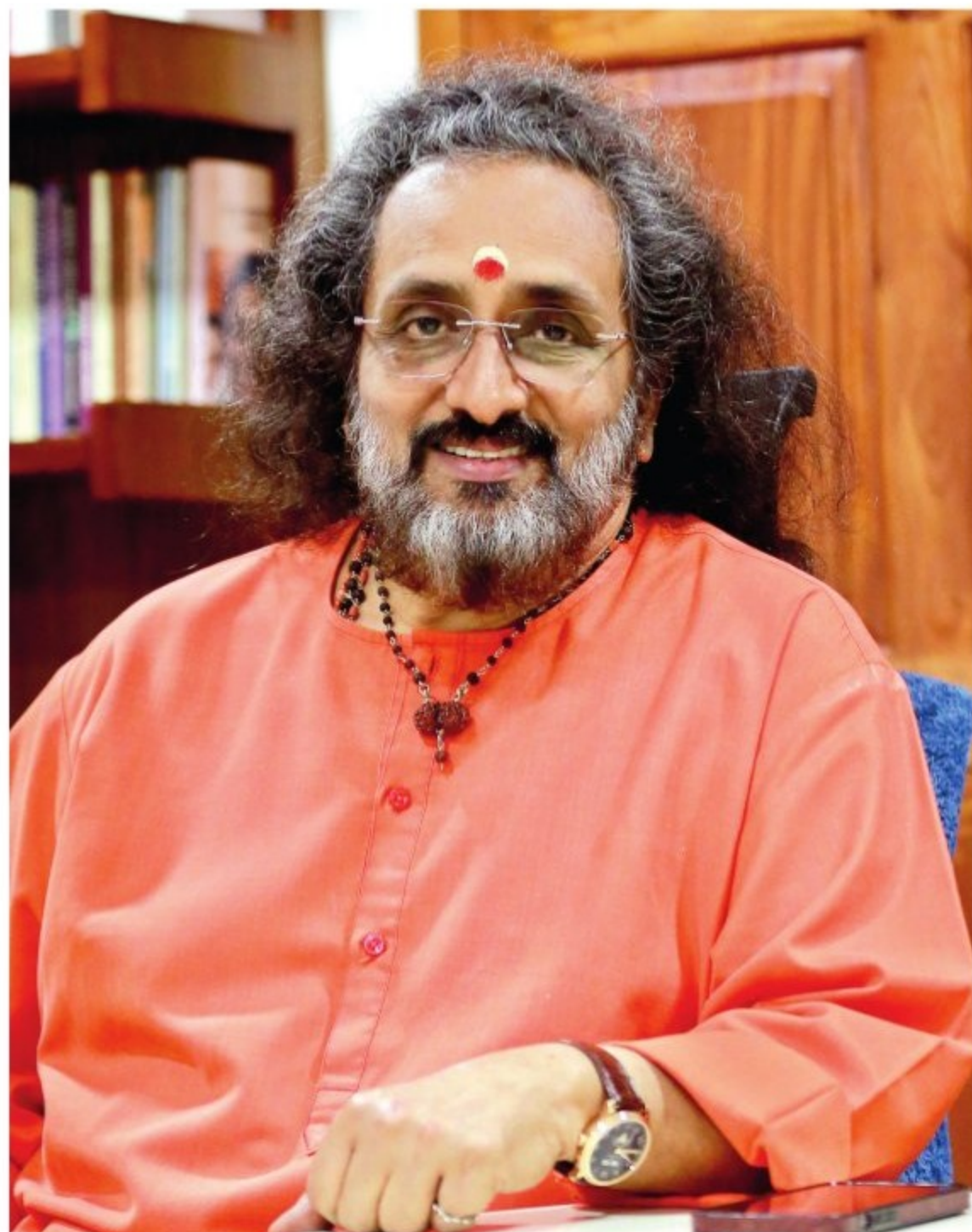
Her embrace conveys a deep sense of love, compassion, and healing. Amma's famous hugs are her way of expressing her unconditional love for all beings





BRIDGING SPIRITUALITY AND SCIENCE

Amma believes that knowledge and innovation are powerful tools for addressing the multifaceted challenges of the modern world and for uplifting the human spirit



“The research projects initiated by her serve as a beacon of hope and a testimony to the life-changing power of knowledge and compassion. By integrating technology, sustainability, healthcare, education and disaster relief, Amma's work exemplifies the potential for spirituality to inspire scientific advancements that uplift humanity and the world

— Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri

SWAMI AMRITASWARUPANANDA PURI

The architect of Bharat's supercomputing initiative, Padma Bhushan Dr Vijay Bhatkar, once said, "As a scientist, I always wondered whether science and spirituality could be integrated, whether they can work together and how we can reconcile science with spiritual devotion. Amma answered my question: "Amma's life is a guiding force for the millennia to come—Amma is showing the light to the world from Bharat." Amma is an incomparable spiritual leader, radical humanitarian and a Guru revered by millions. Her institutions and humanitarian initiatives beautifully intertwine spirituality with science and technology.

Amma stands as a beacon of hope and harmony in a world often characterised by the conflict between these seemingly different worlds, offering a unique and powerful perspective on holistic wellbeing and service to humanity. Her life and teachings are a demonstration that these two seemingly disparate realms could and should happily coexist and complement one another. Amma's love for people, nature, the nation and the world as a whole is obvious from every activity undertaken by her organisation—the Mata Amritanandamayi Math and its Deemed-to-be University, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Amrita University). The university is highly ranked and Amma's urge and commitment to research could be found in all the projects carried out on its seven sprawling campuses. This dedication to research is deeply rooted in Amma's unwavering compassion and love for all beings. Amma believes that knowledge and innovation are powerful tools for addressing the multifaceted challenges of the modern world and for uplifting the human spirit. Research at Amrita University is both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, reflecting Amma's integrated approach towards improving the human condition.

Her commitment extends to areas such as Ayurveda, Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Cyber Security, Engineering, Green Technologies, Humanitarian-Robotics-HCI, Learning Technologies, Management, Medical Sciences, Nano Science, Social Sciences, Women's Empowerment, Spiritual Studies, Wireless Networks, Sustainable Future and beyond. Amma said, "It's a great disservice to humanity that science and spirituality have been separated. Both knowledge branches should have coexisted and been embraced by practitioners as equals instead of being labelled as representatives of faith or modern science."

It was this expansive vision of Amma that allowed Amrita University to contribute on an international level by heading five of the critical working groups under C20, linking research, social impact and public policy.

As Amma said, "Just as in the spiritual field, there was a time when Bharat was also highly developed materially. Way before the word 'modern' was invented, India and Indians were 'modernised.' Today, parents send their children abroad for higher studies. However, in the past, even scholars from ancient Greece, Egypt and China, among other countries, came to Bharat to learn and acquire new knowledge in fields such as economics, mathematics, astrology, warfare, medicine, chemistry, physics, psychology, sociology and grammar, etc."

The Vedic sages were skillful in almost all branches of knowledge." Pursuing the same line of vision as the ancient seers, who were unparalleled researchers and inventors, Amma too, stresses research aimed at creating sustainable development, thereby bridging the gap between modern science and spirituality. Amma not only encourages compassion-based scientific and technological inventions in her institutions, but she also encourages the researchers themselves to cultivate empathy in their field. Just as it is with Amma's iconic motherly embrace, it is

Amma's legacy, which is now 70-years-old, demonstrates that, when nurtured together, the spiritual and scientific aspects of human existence can bring about change that transcends boundaries

compassion that is the underlying principle in all of Amrita's research and social-uplift initiatives. This approach underscores Amma's conviction that true healing encompasses the individual's physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Marc Benioff, CEO, Salesforce,—who is renowned not only for innovating Cloud-based computing but also for his widely adopted corporate philanthropic model — frequently calls Amma his inspiration.

Reminiscing about his first meeting with Amma in 1996, Benioff said, "She looked straight at me and said, "In your quest to change the world, do not forget to do something for somebody else." It was a comment that would forever change his life. Benioff says, "It was Amma who introduced me to the idea, and possibility, of giving back to the world by pursuing my career ambitions."

In addition, the research initiatives of Amrita University are marked by a strong emphasis on practical applications that can make a positive difference in people's lives. Amrita's Live-in-Labs programme is a good example. It is designed to engage students in a mutual-learning-and- sharing experience by removing the barriers between 'the classroom' and 'the lab'. In doing so, students are

able to implement theoretical knowledge to address real-life problems. The programme allows students to study, observe and interact with rural populations while living in rural communities, thereby gaining a better understanding of the challenges the people there face in successfully reaching the 17 'Self Development Goals' championed by the United Nations — ending poverty, hunger, attaining health and wellbeing and gender equality, etc.

The programme brings together Amrita students and faculty — in conjunction with students and faculty from international universities — to form multidisciplinary teams that spend two weeks to six months in Indian villages. This programme not only helps students widen their knowledge about the practical world, but also instil in them values such as compassion and caring via their close interactions with the villagers. Amma's immense passion for research that both transforms students and researches as well as tangibly benefits the underserved is a testament to the profound synergy between spirituality and science. It reflects her boundless love for humanity and unwavering commitment to fostering positive change in the world. The research projects initiated by her serve as a beacon of hope and a testimony to the life-changing power of knowledge and compassion. By integrating technology, sustainability, healthcare, education and disaster relief, Amma's work exemplifies the potential for spirituality to inspire scientific advancements that uplift humanity and the world.

Today, Amrita University collaborates with 307 foreign universities, including those from the US, Japan, Australia, Europe, South America and Africa. Amrita's academic strength is not the only reason for its cooperative efforts; Amma's guidance and presence are also key factors. Greeting Amma on her 70th Birthday, Jeffrey Sachs, President, United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions' Network, said, "Amma, you say that if you can touch people, you can help move the world. And you touch people—you touch our hearts, you inspire us, you create ways for us to participate in the wonderful acts of compassion that you envision. You have created so many wonderful institutions and our dearest Amrita University."

As the world grapples with complex challenges, Amma's example serves as a guiding light, offering a blueprint for how spirituality and science can unite to create a more compassionate and a harmonious future for everyone. Amma's legacy, which is now 70-years-old, demonstrates that, when nurtured together, the spiritual and scientific aspects of human existence can bring about change that transcends boundaries and benefits the entire global community.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF SELFLESSNESS

SURESH GOPI

Pujaneeya Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, affectionately known as "Amma," has reached a remarkable milestone in her journey of selfless service to humanity — 70 years of unwavering dedication to spreading the light of compassion and wisdom. Her life is a testament to the transformative power of unconditional love and selfless service.

Amidst the chaos and materialism of the world, spiritual leaders shine like beacons of enlightenment. Amma is a global spiritual luminary, a humanitarian and a visionary. Her life and works offer countless souls solace, hope and guidance.

Born in a remote coastal village in Kerala, Amma's journey from humble beginnings to international prominence is remarkable. Her unique approach to spirituality is centred around selfless service and boundless love, symbolised by her signature motherly embrace. Amma has hugged millions of people from diverse cultures and walks of life. Her warm and motherly embrace is a tangible expression of her core teaching: "Love and serve all."

Amma's humanitarian accomplishments are unparalleled. Through the organisation she founded, Amma has initiated a wide array of projects in the fields of healthcare, education, research, nature conservation, housing, disaster relief and rehabilitation, and providing potable water to impoverished communi-

ties. She has also promoted spiritual activities such as meditation, yoga and self-awareness programmes globally. Through these comprehensive efforts, Amma has not only alleviated suffering but also empowered individuals and communities to lead better lives.

What truly distinguishes Amma is her visionary approach to spirituality. She teaches that genuine spiritual growth is inseparable from selfless service to others; that love and compassion are not mere sentiments but powerful catalysts for personal and societal transformation. Her teachings offer a spiritual roadmap that transcends religious boundaries, making her a unifying force in a fractured world.

As Amma completes 70 years of service, it is essential to reflect on the fundamental questions about our existence and the path to a more compassionate and interconnected world. Her life reminds us that spirituality is not confined to temples or rituals but is a way of life rooted in love, empathy and service. She challenges us to break free from the confines of individual concerns and contribute to making a kinder and more gracefully interconnected world. In celebrating Amma's seven decades of selfless service, we honour her remarkable journey and the timeless values of love and compassion she embodies. Her legacy is a guiding light for future generations, inspiring us all to make the world a better place — one act of kindness at a time.

The author is actor-politician



“Amma's vision transcends the boundaries of religion and culture, inspiring people of all backgrounds to work together for the greater good



THE DAY LOVE TOUCHED MY HEART

ANNA AGNELLI

When I had been living in London almost 10 years ago, I left my Notting Hill home very early one late October morning as I was magnetically drawn to Alexandra Palace, where Amma was conducting one of her legendary darshans. I had never met her, but heard of her many times. Little did I know that what I was about to experience would literally transform my inner and outer lives.

Her presence was permeating the air as I entered the large hall. Just being there felt warm and comforting. I could subtly smell a sweetness in the air. I thought the Indian incense had done its charm. I noticed a simple stage where, surrounded by dozens of people, was a tiny Indian woman barely visible in between the hugs she was so passionately offering to the hundreds in line. That very small woman dressed in white somehow seemed as tall as the 25m high ceiling. Being in Amma's arms hours later was an extraordinary feeling. She broke my emotional armour in 45 seconds leaving me with an utterly exposed pure heart. Something penetrated within me and expanded all around me. It was Grace. It was Amma's Grace. And that state of Grace left me feeling high in the same way one feels when falling powerlessly in Love. Everything was instantly beautiful. And I wanted to give back to the world what was given to me.

That is Amma. Short for Mata Amritanandamayi. It all begins with Love. Over the past 70 years through millions of people, who experienced that touch of Love, Amma was able to create a vast global network of organisations that carry out humanitarian activities across the world. She is one of the most significant Spiritual and Humanitarian leaders of our time and will tirelessly continue to serve as long as she lives. May there be many more years to come. Happy Birthday Amma, thank you for being Love.

Anna Agnelli is the daughter of Umberto Agnelli. She is the filmmaker of "Amma's Way." The Agnelli family is an Italian multi-industry business dynasty family founded by Giovanni Agnelli, one of the original founders of the Fiat Motor Company. They are also primarily known for other activities in the automotive industry by investing in Ferrari, Lancia, Alfa Romeo and Chrysler, the latter acquired by Fiat after it filed for bankruptcy in 2009.

